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MARRIAGE.

At St. John's Cathedral, by the Rev. R. F. Cobbold, RICHARD J. CURTIS, Master of the S. O. S. S. Co.'s steamer *Taichian*, to ELIZA KILGOUR, second daughter of J. K. BLACK, Bangkok, Siam. [943]

DEATHS.

At Bangkok, on the 9th inst., JAMES FREDERICK HEETHAM, aged 40 years. (By telegram.) [944]
At Tientsin, on Tuesday, the 24th March, 1895, DANIEL O'ROURKE, aged 52 years, of Elphin Co., Roscommon, Ireland.

ARRIVALS OF MAIL.

The German mail of the 9th March arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *Sachsen*, on the 9th April (31 days); and the French mail of the 13th March arrived, per M. M. steamer *Sydney*, on the 14th April (32 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The Japanese Consulate of Amoy was opened on the 29th March.

A proclamation has been issued by the Viceroy of Foochow sanctioning the running of steam-launches on the river.

The revenue cruiser *Chuentiao*, which has been refitted for the tour of the "I.G." is expected to leave Shanghai about the 16th inst. for Taku.

Regulations of a restrictive character have been issued by the Japanese authorities with respect to the sugar and camphor trades in Formosa.

The statutory meeting of Olivers Freehold Mines, Limited, was held on the 11th April, when the Chairman made a favourable statement as to the prospects of the Company.

The Emperor of Japan has signified his intention to present to each member of the Privy Council a set of gold cups, in recognition of services rendered to the nation during the war.

Serious famine prevails in the province of Kwangsi and the missionaries are taking steps to raise funds to relieve the distress by supplying rice or distributing money to the sufferers.

In the Indian budget for the ensuing financial year sixty-two lakhs of rupees are appropriated for the Mandalay-Kunlon railway. Special efforts are to be made to complete the line in the shortest possible time.

The law abolishing the import duty on raw cotton in Japan has been promulgated. This will enable Japanese spinners to reduce the price of their yarns and so place them in a better position to compete with Bombay yarns in China.

We hear that preparations from albumen will shortly be manufactured at Hoihow, the plant and machinery being in course of preparation to be sent to that port. The new industry will no doubt interest the natives and add to the importance of the port.

Baron von Siebold, who for ten months has been in charge of Austro-Hungarian interests in Shanghai, left on the 4th April for Japan. After a short stay in that country Baron Siebold will proceed home, and, it is understood, will take up an appointment in Europe.

The entries for the Shanghai Spring Meeting closed on the 4th April with phenomenal result, the total amounting to Tls. 6,940, against Tls. 5,385 for the Spring Meeting of last year. The former amount has never been exceeded, the totals of Tls. 6,350 in 1883 and Tls. 6,155 in 1888 being hitherto the records.

A Tokyo press despatch of the 1st April says:—The solemn ceremony of communicating to the ancestors of the Emperor information respecting the late war and the nation's victory took place to-day at the Kashikodokoro, the temple near the Palace for ancestral worship. His Imperial Majesty was not present in person, but was represented.

Several accidents to steamers have occurred recently owing to the fog. The *Eze* and the *Ocampo* both stranded near Hongkong on the 8th April, but were got off again; the *Eze* with rather serious damage and the *Ocampo* with a twisted stem only. The *Activ* went ashore on Sad Point, Cape Cami, on the 7th April, and it is feared she will become a total loss.

The *Hyogo News* says:—Work was commenced last November by the Formosan Lighthouse Board upon several new stations. Capes Fuki and Bito in Formosa itself will be lit; three lights are to be fixed on the Okinawa-ken coasts, and four on the Kagoshima-ken. The Iyējima lighthouse (one of the Okinawa station) will be the largest in Japan, being 100 feet high.

An extensive fire occurred at Manila on the 3rd April, half of the district of Santa Cruz and a large part of that of Trozo, in which the houses are of "nipa," being burnt down. The total number of houses destroyed was between four and five thousand. Subscriptions have been opened for the relief of the inhabitants in the burnt-out district and measures for their relief were also taken by the Government. It is believed that the fire had its origin in incendiarism, the motive being discontent with certain payments exacted in the district.

At Hué on the 26th March twenty-two chiefs of the party of insurrection were executed. Six specially selected executioners performed the decapitation and in only one instance was more than one blow required to sever the head from the body.

Li Hung-chang landed at Saigon on the 4th April and received much attention, royal honours being accorded him. His Excellency also landed at Singapore, where he was received with a guard of honour and the salute of his rank, and was entertained at Government House. In the *Recorder* for April we read that Li, just before he left Shanghai, was presented with a facsimile, except for the binding and the colour of the border, of the New Testament lately presented to the Empress-Dowager. His Excellency "received it very graciously, and promised to read it daily on his voyage."

So many absolutely contradictory and utterly valueless reports are published from time to time in the columns of the *Peking Gazette*, as well as in the native papers, that one scarcely knows how much reliance to place on any statements from Chinese sources upon this subject. The native papers to-day (1st April) record that on the 25th ult. a telegram was received from Kansuh to the effect that on the 10th ult. the Imperial Generals Tung and Tong, with whom the Kansuh Governor Wei was co-operating from the eastward, made a combined attack upon the Mahomedan position at Wuchang Luh-poo and Wuchang Wu-poo, and secured a glorious victory over the rebels, the Governor Wei carrying a place called Ta-pa with great gallantry! Considering that the Mahomedans have been reported as entirely subdued or exterminated ten or twelve times they have a wonderful amount of fight still left in them. We, however, rather fancy the engagements between the Imperialists and the rebels must be very like many of the desperate but bloodless battles with which the Taipings and Imperialists frequently amused themselves for the sake of getting glowing reports and good rewards.—*China Gazette*.

As a settlement Hankow is growing rapidly. The building trade was never so brisk. Eight new hongts have gone up recently, half of them to replace old ones, but the glory of these latter houses is greater than the former, whilst the building just finished, in which the new Russian bank is about to start business, throws all the others into the shade. Two new concessions have also been marked out: one for the Russians along the river side immediately below and adjacent to the English, with the old French Concession behind it—France is always at the back of Russia now-a-days—and one for the Germans, which begins below the city wall where the Russian leaves off. A good deal of speculating in land has also been done by foreigners outside these limits as well, in the hope of the good times coming, although a fact which came to light in connection with the German Concession might have taught caution. This fact was that much of the land after it had been bought and paid for from the apparent native owners turned out to be registered in H.B.M. Consulate as British property. It had been bought by speculators in the early days for good round sums, and afterwards neglected as never likely to be worth the cost of looking after it.—*Peking and Tientsin Times* correspondent.

THE SECRET TREATY AND LI HUNG-CHANG'S MISSION TO RUSSIA.

The report that a secret treaty has been concluded between China and Russia is denied by the Peking correspondent of our Shanghai morning contemporary, though not with any great confidence or apparently on any first class authority. His only authority appears to be Chinese rumour or report, but concerning the mission of LI HUNG-CHANG he is somewhat more explicit and positive. He says:—"It is positively denied that the 'ex-Viceroy Li goes with any authority to 'sign, ratify, or exchange any such treaty' [as the reported secret treaty]; he 'proceeds to Russia simply and solely in 'connection with the coronation. The 'Chinese say the EMPEROR would never have 'deputed LI HUNG-CHANG to conduct such 'a measure after the fiasco of the Japanese 'war.' This may or may not be true, but whatever may have been the case in connection with the conduct of the war, we fail to see that the veteran Viceroy made any fiasco of the peace negotiations. He more than any man was certainly responsible for the state of unpreparedness in which the war found China. He it was who armed the troops with worthless rifles of various makes, obsolete in design and supplied with cartridges that would not fit; he was the creator and maintainer of the fleet, responsible alike for its existence and its numerous defects; and it was at his direction that the forts were erected and armed with guns more or less unsuitable and manned by coolies who knew nothing of the working of artillery. To some extent this deplorable all round failure was the fault of the system of administration, but LI HUNG-CHANG had large powers and used them freely. The matériel was purchased, but of the money voted how much really reached the manufacturer? Li himself has grown rich beyond the dreams of the most insatiable avarice, and his relatives and creatures have simply battened on contracts and squeezes. The marvel is, not that so little was achieved during the war by the Chinese forces as that they ever made any stand at all. A certain number of war vessels, of heavy guns, and of arms for the troops had been collected, but there was no system, and every branch of the public service—such as it was—was honeycombed with corruption.

Even if LI HUNG-CHANG had been an honest administrator instead of a squeezing mandarin, it may fairly be doubted whether the result of the Chinese preparations would have been different in the end. The Chinese are neither good administrators nor good fighters. They possess neither method nor organisation, nor are they amenable to discipline. CHANG CHIH-TUNG is an instance of how little even an honest official can achieve. He is, and we think rightly, credited with being indifferent to money and is reputed to be a bitter opponent of the squeezing practices of the officials. But his ventures, though undertaken from patriotic motives, and, so far as he is concerned, honestly conducted, have not been conspicuous successes. Rather the reverse in fact. He also is impractical and unmethodical, and his enterprises have in consequence languished for the most part or proved only qualified successes. What the astute Li failed to accomplish the patriotic CHANG would equally, we feel sure, have been unable to achieve, and for the most part for very similar reasons. It is quite possible that had CHANG conducted the negotiations at Shimonski he would not have suc-

ceeded in securing such good terms for his country. No doubt the veteran ex-Viceroy of Chihli owed no little portion of his success to the bullet of his would-be assassin—an unfortunate episode which rendered the Japanese more disposed to concede to the victim of the attack—but it cannot be denied that he showed throughout the negotiations the craft and subtlety for which he has always been famous. He consented, it is true, to the cession of Formosa, for that was inevitable, and to that of the Liaotung peninsula, but who will say he had not already counted on Russian intervention in connection with the latter? On the other hand, he induced the Japanese Commissioner to forego all the more important commercial concessions first demanded, although he was in a position to insist upon them all. The wily old Celestial, who thoroughly outwitted Captain FOURNIER and other French diplomats, had lost nothing of his cunning when he went as China's forlorn hope to Japan to endeavour to obtain peace without too vast a sacrifice of face and specie.

Whether or not LI HUNG-CHANG has gone to Russia, as stated, simply and solely to represent his Imperial Master at the Coronation of the Czar NICOLAS II. we cannot pretend to say. There may be some secret understanding between Russia and China with reference to the Trans-Siberian Railway, and it is quite possible that the Chinese have tacitly agreed to make, or allow to be made, a railway through Manchuria to connect with it to a port on the Yellow Sea. This is possible; but the Chinese have no political gratitude, and they are given to distrust professed friends equally with open enemies. They never yield anything except to forceful pressure, and are far more likely to make concessions under a sense of favours to come than from recollection of past services, especially when these have been rendered from obviously selfish motives. The probabilities are all against Li having been despatched on his present mission with any ulterior aim. Yet the appointment is rather remarkable and noteworthy for more reasons than one. His Excellency is now in advanced years and in somewhat infirm health. He occupies a most important office as Grand Secretary of the Council, and as the adviser of the Emperor on all matters connected with Foreign affairs stands in a unique position. Nevertheless this seemingly indispensable counsellor has been spared at a more or less critical period in China's foreign relations. Why, it may be asked, was not a Manchu Prince deputed on this occasion to represent the Emperor KWANG SU at Moscow? The Emperor of Japan will be represented by a Prince of the Blood, one of the ablest and most distinguished of the Imperial Family. Could not China do the CZAR equal honour? She has sent her most renowned statesman, but it would have been more significant of an intention to treat Russia on an equality had Prince KUNG been despatched to Moscow to be present at the coronation ceremony. There may have been some object in the appointment of LI HUNG-CHANG to Russia on this occasion that is not generally suspected. The veteran ex-Viceroy is still the trusted adviser of his sovereign. He may have gone to Russia to see something more than the coronation. He may have been deputed to take stock of the country and its apparent resources, to note for the Peking Government what manner of Power this great restless neighbour of theirs really is; to try and detect its weaknesses as well as to ascertain its strength. Who can tell? One thing at least we know: namely, that the Chinese Ambassadors have not lived in

Europe and America for nothing. It is true their country has profited little from any knowledge of Western civilization they have gained; but their Government has learned how to play upon the jealousies and take advantage of the weaknesses of the Western Powers through the knowledge and experience garnered by its Representatives.

THE OPENING OF THE INTERIOR OF CHINA.

In the agitation for the opening of the West River and its affluents, a question that more nearly concerns the trade of Hongkong and South China, there seems too much likelihood of another similar question being for the moment overlooked. We refer to the opening of the Siang River or south-western branch of the great waterway commonly known to foreigners for most of its vast length as the Yangtsze-kiang. It was generally hoped after the terrible incident of the Kucheng massacre, following so closely on the heels of the riots in Szechuen, which again were a continuation of the riots and massacres in the cities and towns of the Yangtsze Valley in 1890-92, that the central provinces would be opened up to trade and residence. Unfortunately the British Government of the day failed to obtain any adequate reparation for the long series of murders and outrages which culminated in the wholesale slaughter of defenceless English ladies and children at Kucheng, and for which even Lord SALISBURY—a reputed champion of British rights—seemed to think a few pieces of silver and the heads of a few wretched coolies a sufficient compensation. It is true that they were only English ladies and children, the former missionaries, who, in mistaken zeal, had gone to teach the heathen a more excellent way, and missionaries' lives are very cheap! Hence it came to pass that this shocking tragedy went practically unavenged, for cheap as missionaries' blood may be, coolies' lives are incomparably cheaper. The opportunity for reading the vile promoters of these outrages and murders a severe and lasting lesson was allowed to slip by, and the province of Hunan, the chosen home of bigotry and anti-foreign ideas, still remains closed to the foreigner and impregnable isolated from all progressive influences. Early in the present decade, when the long series of outrages first took place, there was concerted action among the Foreign Representatives, and the demand for the opening up of Hunan to trade was formally made, but the Powers lacked the energy to insist upon this concession and were set calmly at defiance by the Peking Government. The utter rottenness of China had not then been exposed by the Japanese armies, but none the less it was inexcusable for the Treaty Powers to make a demand at Peking and then accept a snub. Lord SALISBURY displayed an equal lack of moral fibre after the Kucheng massacre, and the mandarins now believe, and with apparent reason, that they can defy any of the Western Powers, each of whom grovel at their feet in turn.

Some time last year M. GERARD, the French Minister, after a fine pretence of firmness, which partook, however, more of bluster, sent a French gunboat up the Yangtsze into the Tungting Lake with instructions to proceed up the Siang River, and some of our Northern contemporaries rushed to the conclusion that His Excellency was about to demand the opening up of that river and the Tungting Lake to French trade. But the gunboat, we

believe, never got as far as Changsha even, and the demands of the Minister, if ever they were made, were curtly and contemptuously refused by the Tsung-li Yamen. France may bluster and whine, but, like the British Foreign Minister, she is always ready to turn her cheek to the smiter, if it be a distant Power and difficult to reach. The Peking Government have, through their Ambassadors abroad, taken the measure of the Western Powers, and know that they can go very far indeed in the shape of both insult and injury before any of the Powers can be moved to effective reprisals. The humiliating back down made by France after vainly endeavouring to capture Formosa, and the weak acquiescence of Russia in the repudiation by Peking of the treaty concluded by CHUNG HOW, had confirmation been necessary, would have confirmed them in their conviction that the Western nations were, after all, very powerless at long distances. So long as concerted action was possible there was some chance of foreign interests being in a degree maintained; but now, when every Minister plays off his own bat and has virtually no force at his back, neither satisfaction for injuries suffered nor concessions to trade are likely to be gained. The Chinese Government lost their fear of foreigners many years ago, and they are now losing all respect for them. The disgraceful scramble for contracts, the attempts of different Ministers to outbid the others for small favours and advantages have unquestionably lowered the prestige of Western Powers generally and rendered diplomacy at Peking a most arduous and unthankful, if not impossible, calling. Nor are matters likely to be mended by the adulation exhibited by the French authorities at Saigon to His Excellency LI HUNG-CHANG. It is stated that he was received with royal honours. And for what? Because he is the richest man in the Chinese Empire, rich from the spoils of office, the fruit of corruption unparalleled? Or because he is the incarnation of all the worst faults of the venal Chinese mandarin? Because having had exceptional advantages and opportunities of helping on reform he has used them all for his personal aggrandisement and enrichment? With characteristic perfidy he slew the Taiping leaders after pledging his word to GORDON to spare them. After all his many and deep obligations to foreigners, he it was who vowed to reduce the European residents at Shanghai to the condition of the Portuguese at Macao and it was not his fault that he failed to succeed in this self-imposed task.

HON. T. H. WHITEHEAD'S REPLY TO THE ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD is to be congratulated on his able reply to the address of welcome tendered to him on his return to the colony after his recent holiday. The reply contains an exhaustive review of the reform movement in Hongkong and it would be well if it could be distributed broadcast amongst the members of both Houses of Parliament and the press of Great Britain. Work of this kind, however, should not fall on Mr. WHITEHEAD personally. The time has come for a resuscitation of the Ratepayers' Association. Into the reasons which operated against the growth and development of the Association when started a few years ago it is unnecessary to enter now; suffice it to say that those reasons no longer exist, and that if a few of our

leading citizens would take the initiative in reviving the movement it would have every prospect of success. Some such organisation is now an imperative necessity if progress is to be made in the cause of local reform. Hitherto Mr. WHITEHEAD has been left to work almost alone; he has had the sympathy and moral support of his fellow citizens, but has received little practical assistance. It cannot be expected that he should continue to carry on the work single handed. While he was on leave in England he employed a great part of his vacation in interviewing the officials of the Colonial Office and members of Parliament and in writing to the press, but now that he is back in Hongkong, with his own business to attend to, it would be almost impossible for him to carry on the voluminous correspondence likely to be required for the prosecution of a successful campaign in Parliament and the press on behalf of the colony's claim to be allowed to manage its own domestic affairs. Mr. WHITEHEAD requires the assistance of a Ratepayers' Association, or Reform Committee, or some such body, with a secretary whose time would be available for the work of correspondence and who should be adequately remunerated for his services. When the object aimed at is attained the necessity for such an association will cease to exist, but while the campaign is in progress funds for carrying it on and the combined exertions of all who take an interest in it are urgently required. As Mr. G. B. DOWELL and Mr. G. W. F. PLAYFAIR took the lead in presenting the address of welcome to Mr. WHITEHEAD, thanking him for the able manner in which he had dealt with the subject of extended local self-government during his vacation, it would be appropriate that they should take the lead also in promoting some organisation to assist him in the further carrying on of that work.

If a formal organisation should for any reason be deemed undesirable or objectionable it is to be hoped that at least the colony will make itself heard at home by a petition against the curtailment of popular privileges in connection with the proposed reconstruction of the Sanitary Board and asking that instead of those privileges being curtailed they should be extended in such form as to give the colony a Municipal Council and an unofficial majority in the Legislative Council, subject of course to the paramount control of the Imperial Government in all matters of Imperial interest. Of these two reforms we regard a Municipal Council as being of much more practical importance to the colony than an unofficial majority in the Legislative Council, because the Municipal Council would be endowed with executive functions, whereas the Legislative Council although it makes the laws has nothing to do with their administration, and it is control of the executive in so far as concerns purely local matters that the ratepayers should aim at. An unofficial majority in the Legislative Council would, however, in itself be valuable, and Mr. WHITEHEAD seems when at home to have been almost within a hair's breadth of securing for us, if not a majority of unofficial members, at least a considerable accession to their strength, and also the representation of the unofficial element on the Executive Council. He saw Lord RIXON thrice and at the first interview His Lordship promised, according to Mr. WHITEHEAD's understanding, that two more unofficial members would be appointed to the Legislative Council; at a later meeting he seemed less decided, but promised that two unofficial members would be appointed to the Executive Council, and

also pledged himself to most favourably reconsider the claim for the appointment of two more unofficial members to the Legislature; but nothing has been done. The struggle has to be carried on under great disadvantages on the part of the colony, because, as Mr. WHITEHEAD points out in his reply to the address of welcome, "The worst feature is that we are unable to ascertain upon what grounds the local Government have opposed our petition or for what reasons the Colonial Office staff have joined forces with them. There is an absolute refusal to produce the correspondence, which disables us from meeting the arguments against us; either by denial, by explanation, or by concession." There is all the more reason therefore why the community should stand united and cordially support their doughty champion Mr. WHITEHEAD in the conflict he is waging under such unfair conditions.

THE MILITARY CONTRIBUTION.

The recently published memorandum on the military contribution submitted by the unofficial members of the Legislative Council for the consideration of the Secretary of State appears to be somewhat weakened in the force of its argument by too great refinement. The home Government will not trouble itself to split fractions with the colony in order to secure nicety of adjustment in connection with the levy of 17½ per cent. on our revenue. This levy, it has been decided, is to be made on the gross revenue of the colony, less premia on land sales. The point to be contended for is that municipal revenue should be excepted and to that the whole force of the attack should be directed. As to small amounts entered as revenue which do not represent *bona fide* receipts, that is a question of bookkeeping which should be seen to by the local Government. If the approval of Downing Street is necessary for any change to be made in the system of keeping the accounts in order to arrive at truer results it would no doubt be readily granted if applied for, but to pick out this or that item as being properly exempt from computation in connection with the military contribution, except on the one ground that it is part of the municipal revenue, or, as in the case of the postal revenue, that it is not all colonial, seems calculated to divert attention from the main point at issue. The unofficial members, in addition to claiming exemption for the municipal revenue, claim that the 17½ per cent. should be calculated on the general revenue of the colony less the amount recently raised to defray the military contribution itself, otherwise the colony is paying not only on its ordinary revenue but in addition on the amount of extra revenue specially raised to defray the military contribution itself. We do not think there is any probability of this claim being admitted. There is no special tax raised to provide funds for the payment of the military contribution. What the claim amounts to, therefore, is that from the total revenue 17½ per cent. should in the first place be deducted and that 17½ per cent. should then be levied on the remainder for the military contribution. It is much the same as if it were claimed that in computing the amount of income tax or probate duty payable in any particular case an amount equivalent to the amount of the tax should first be exempted and the tax be levied only on the sum remaining. That is quite a novel view in finance and although there may be much to be said in its favour

as a matter of theory there is no prospect of its being accepted in practice. In dealing with the postal revenue the unofficial members are on firmer ground. It is pointed out that the Post Office is an Imperial establishment in fact, if not in name, and is also an international institution in so far as it works in connection with the Postal Union; it has branches outside of the colony in various ports in China; it derives a revenue from them and defrays certain expenditure on their account; a large portion of the Post Office revenue (so called) is collected on account of the Imperial Government or of the Postal Union, and brings no profit to this colony whatever; such monies form no portion of the revenue of this colony and ought to be thrown out of account, it is submitted, in the calculation of the gross revenue taxable for the military expenses. The gross revenue from the Post Office is considerable, but the net revenue is small. Last year the postal revenue amounted to \$244,449 and the expenditure to \$194,240. The 17½ per cent. for military contribution ought clearly to be reckoned only on the net revenue of \$50,000, not on the gross revenue, a large portion of which is not colonial revenue at all, being collected outside the colony and spent outside the colony.

The next point made is that several of the departments are charged, for the convenient keeping of the water account, with annual sums for the water they consume and that these ought not to be reckoned as revenue. The ground to be taken in reference to that is that the water rate as a whole is municipal revenue and ought to be entirely exempt from the military contribution, but if this is not conceded the Government should arrange its bookkeeping on such a system as not to swell the revenue by fictitious receipts introduced only for departmental convenience. It would be quite hopeless to expect the home Government to make a rebate from the military contribution in respect of a hundred dollars' worth of water consumed by this or that department. It is next urged that "there are other items" to the amount of about \$46,000 classed last year and in former years as 'appropriations in aid,' and which were deducted from the "gross expenditure in order to arrive at the amount of revenue to be raised, but which are used this year to swell the gross revenue. These are not in any true sense revenue at all." The remedy for that is to revert to the system of bookkeeping which prevailed last year in respect to these items. The Secretary of State in his despatch of the 27th June, 1895, said:—"It is understood that the revenue on which the percentage will be taken shall include the gross receipts from all sources which are now brought into account as revenue, with one exception, viz., the proceeds of land sales." Items which were not brought into account as revenue last year ought not, therefore, to be so brought into account now and ought not to be charged with the percentage for the military contribution. It is urged in the next paragraph of the memorandum that "There is another noteworthy item which ought to be deducted from the gross total. The Colonial Secretary estimates that during the year 1896 the Treasury will have to refund to the payers some \$15,000 out of revenue received, i.e., that the revenue to be received will be some \$15,000 less in fact than he estimates it at. These \$15,000 should clearly be deducted." As to the equity of that there can be no doubt, but in face of the Secretary of State's declaration that the percentage is to be

levied on the gross revenue there is little prospect of getting it levied only on the net revenue. Something, however, might possibly be done to avoid swelling the gross revenue by the collection of money which has subsequently to be refunded. Rates, for instance, are collected quarterly in advance and if a house is empty for any period of the quarter are refunded; if the collection were made monthly the refunds would be largely reduced.

The final paragraph of the memorandum urges that "the monies raised annually for the payment of interest on loans and for the purpose of maintaining sinking funds for repayment of these loans ought not to be made liable to the military tax. Such loans were raised on the security of the colony's capital in land unsold, in its waterworks, markets, &c., and are part of its capital. The revenues now raised from the water rates, central market, &c., are charged specifically with the repayment of debts incurred in respect of the waterworks, market, &c., and with the interest on the loan. The amounts so collected are not ordinary but extraordinary revenue, and will cease and determine when the specific purposes for which they were imposed have been accomplished. The Government is bound by a distinct agreement in respect of the light dues, which interfere with the complete freedom of the Port. If there is any profit to the colony after payment of interest and after provision of sinking funds, that is revenue and clearly liable, but otherwise not." This reasoning is sound, but, as already remarked, the military tax is leviable on the gross revenue, not on the net revenue only. Had the colony possessed a Municipal Council the loans would have been municipal loans and the revenue raised to pay interest upon them would be municipal revenue and therefore exempt from the military tax. The want of a Municipal Council not only deprives the colony of the improved administration that might be expected if the ratepayers had the management of their own affairs, but it also entails a severe pecuniary loss. The colony, however, is entitled, irrespective of its claim to have a Municipal Council, to the exemption of its municipal revenue from the military mulct; but the exemption should be claimed simply on the ground that the items of revenue in question are municipal and not general, not because the revenue is required to pay interest on loans raised for specific purposes. The latter contention opens the door to endless argument and so weakens the case for the colony, whereas when exemption of municipal revenue is claimed as such the colony is on sure ground and must, we think, succeed in the long run.

THE GAP ROCK LIGHT DUES.

It is time the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce once more took up the question of the abolition in whole or in part of the light dues now levied. Attention is opportunely drawn to the subject in the recently published memorandum of the unofficial members of the Legislative Council on the military contribution. Speaking of certain items of revenue which are not ordinary, but extraordinary, and which will cease and determine when the specific purposes for which they were imposed have been accomplished, the hon. gentlemen say:—"The Government is bound by a distinct agreement in respect of the light dues, which interfere with the complete freedom of the port." The present is the time to ask for

the fulfilment of that agreement. The cost of the Gap Rock lighthouse has been covered and a failure to demand the removal of the special dues imposed for that purpose might be construed as a waiver of the claim and lead to the history of the original light dues being repeated in the case of the Gap Rock light dues. When the lights on Cape d'Aguilar, Green Island, and Cape Collinson were established legislative authority was given to the Governor in Council to impose light dues, but on the understanding that the dues should be continued only until an amount had been collected sufficient to cover the original cost. The revenue, however, was found very convenient by the Government and as no special demand was made until many years afterwards for the removal of the dues they came to be regarded as general revenue. No formal record had been made of the understanding which existed when the dues were originally imposed and the subject had apparently dropped out of mind until the desirability of abolishing them on general grounds, not in fulfilment of a formal agreement, was urged long afterwards. The reply the Government then made was that it could not consent to any diminution in the sources of revenue. The understanding that the dues should be removed when they had served the purpose for which they were imposed was brushed entirely aside and treated as if it had never existed. There is good reason, therefore, why vigilance should be exercised to see that the same thing is not repeated in the case of the Gap Rock dues.

The Gap Rock light was established at the request of the shipping community, who expressed their willingness to pay additional light dues until the Government had recouped itself for the cost of the work. The Government accepted the offer and on the 1st April, 1890, the light dues were increased from one cent per ton to two and a half cents. The previously existing legislative authority for the collection of light dues referred only to dues in respect of lights within the colony, and Gap Rock being within the Empire of China it was necessary to come to the Legislature for authority to levy dues in respect of a light outside the colony. On the 18th December, 1889, a Bill was introduced, and passed through all its stages at one sitting, providing that "The powers and provisions contained in the Merchant Shipping Consolidation Ordinance, 1879, sections 33 and 34, in respect of lighthouses and light dues within the colony shall apply equally to the light-house now in course of erection upon a rock or island commonly known as the Gap Rock, situate about twenty-eight miles from the colony within the dominions of the Emperor of China." This provision has since been incorporated in the Merchant Shipping Consolidation Ordinance. When the Bill was passed in 1889 a very interesting debate upon the question of the duration of the dues took place, which will be found reported in the *Daily Press* of the 19th December of that year. Mr. A. P. MacEwen said—"It would be satisfactory to know as to what length of time it is intended to levy this increased tax, because, if I recollect correctly, it was understood that this tax would be levied only to pay for the actual cost of the lighthouse." The Governor replied—"There was a most distinct understanding to that effect. This will be called the Gap Rock light-house rate; it will involve the special sanction of the Legislature and the rate will naturally cease after the Gap Rock lighthouse has been paid for." The late Mr. RYRIE expressed the hope that what

Mr. MAC EWEN had stated and what the Governor had agreed to would be noted down, and referred to the failure to carry out the understanding that existed when the original light dues were imposed. The Governor then said—"Of course all this will be recorded, but I think it is just as well that it should be entered on the minutes that Mr. MAC EWEN drew attention to the matter and that I said that this extraordinary rate was intended by me to be distinctly in payment for the Gap Rock lighthouse and nothing else." At a subsequent stage of the debate Mr. RYRIE said—"I remember when the fund set apart for this [the payment for the original lighthouses] was established. I proposed half a cent, but my colleague at that time, Mr. WHITALL, said, 'No, let us have a cent and finish the matter as quickly as possible.' In every enlightened country, in America for instance, no charge is made for light dues. Many gentlemen in this colony interested in shipping feel strongly on this matter. You may say, 'It is only a cent per ton,' but to persons interested in numbers of ships it is a very heavy charge." The entry in the official minutes of the Legislative Council is as follows:—"Mr. MAC EWEN addressed the Council and enquired whether the tax proposed in this Bill to be levied for the purposes of the Gap Rock lighthouse would be withdrawn after the lighthouse had been finished. His Excellency the Governor replied in the affirmative." The word of the British Government ought to be as good as its bond. Will it be so in the present instance?

The cost of the Gap Rock lighthouse was about \$181,000, as stated in reply to a question in the Legislative Council, and of the telegraph cable connecting with it \$87,250, making a total of \$268,250. The light dues collected since 1890 are as follows:—

1890	...	...	...	\$ 72,028
1891	...	...	...	89,656
1892	...	...	...	92,264
1893	...	...	...	96,064
1894	...	...	...	92,909
1895	...	...	...	107,315
1896 (first quarter)	say	...	...	27,000

\$577,236

Of this amount \$347,000 may be taken as representing the Gap Rock dues of a cent and a half a ton, the remainder being made up by the tax of one cent a ton, which may now be looked upon as a permanent tax from which there is little hope, certainly no immediate hope, of obtaining relief. The Gap Rock tax, however, has now more than served the purpose for which it was imposed and, in accordance with the solemn declaration made by the Government, ought to be removed.

It will doubtless be urged that this is a very inconvenient time to propose any diminution of the sources of revenue. The Government is pleased to consider itself in financial straits. It is not really so, but its system of bookkeeping so represents it, for the assets of the colony have on paper been diminished by the amount paid for the Tai-pingshan resumption, while the value of the land so acquired has not been entered. Granting, however, that money is required and that the maintenance of the light dues at their present figure is deemed desirable, the Government ought not to appropriate them without the sanction of the Legislative Council. In the debate in 1889 already alluded to Sir WILLIAM DES VŒUX threw out a suggestion that in the event of an

emergency arising it might be necessary to maintain the Gap Rock dues, but, His Excellency said, "All I can say is that I have not the slightest intention to apply the rate to any other purpose and if the necessity arises for it I shall come down to this Board and get their sanction for it. It seems a curious arrangement in this colony, I do not quite understand it, that the levying of this rate is placed in the hands of the Governor in Council. It strikes me it would be much better if the Governor had to go to the Legislative Council for it. It is worth consideration whether that should be altered." And altered it subsequently was, the last Merchant Shipping Consolidation Ordinance providing that the light dues are to be fixed by order of the Governor pursuant to resolution of the Legislative Council provided that until such order is made the dues in table P to this Ordinance shall be payable." If the unofficial members by their silence acquiesced in the continuance of that table without a formal resolution of Council, now that the Gap Rock light has been paid for, it would be tantamount to a complete surrender of the claim that taxes should not be imposed upon shipping beyond what is required for the maintenance of the lights. If it be deemed desirable that the tax should be continued to meet a temporary emergency the resolution giving effect to that view should contain a limit of time, say of one year, within which the existing rate should be maintained, so that the question would come up again for consideration in due course. If the emergency had then passed the claim for a fulfilment of the contract entered into between the Government and the shipping community when the Gap Rock dues were first levied could again be pressed. But we do not admit that an emergency exists at the present moment, and, if it does, we contend that light dues are a very undesirable form of raising revenue. Nor is a diminution in the sources of revenue in itself a thing to be altogether deplored. The ease with which revenue has been raised is possibly responsible to some extent for the enormous increase in the cost of the administration during the past few years. With a smaller income greater economy would probably be practised. In any case it is the duty of the unofficial members to keep a tight grip on the right of the Legislative Council to control the amount of the light dues.

THE "EXE" ASHORE.

The *Chunshan* arrived in port on the 9th April and Captain Stovell, the master, reported having passed the steamer *Eze* ashore on the east side Hungof Kong Chau, one of the Samoun group, about midway between Hongkong and Gap Rock. The *Eze* was flying the signal "Want steam tug and report me at Hongkong." Messrs. Dodwell, Carlill & Co., the agents made arrangements for the Dock Company's tug, the *Fame*, to visit the *Eze*, and she started shortly after four o'clock.

The tug *Fame* again went out on the 10th April to the steamer *Eze*, and about five o'clock in the afternoon the *P* and *O. Dragon* followed in order to render assistance, while H.M.S. *Swift* also proceeded to the spot earlier in the day. The *Petrarch*, which arrived from Saigon, reported having endeavoured to get the *Eze* off, but the tow rope broke.

The *Eze*, arrived in harbour on the 12th April, and at once went over to the Cosmopolitan Docks. The weather was very foggy at the time of striking the rock. Several efforts were made by the *Fame* as well as H.M.S. *Archer* to tow the *Eze* off, but it was not until about half-past nine on the morning of the 12th that this was done. She then came unassisted into Hongkong and

on her arrival outside the dock pumps were placed on board, as she had a lot of water in her forehold and was touching bottom.

The *Eze* did not go into dock until late on the afternoon of the 13th, as the work of pumping out the water from the foreholds and temporarily patching the rent took some considerable time. Four tugs—the *Fame*, the *Dragon*, and two Chinese boats—as well as H.M.S. *Archer*, were engaged in the task of towing the *Eze* off the rocks on Sunday morning. Operations were commenced about seven o'clock and two hours and a half later the stranded vessel was afloat again. The first pull brought her away about ten feet and the second pull twenty feet, and just then a nine inch hawser attached to the *Archer* snapped. There was rather a heavy swell on at the time and there is no doubt that after the second pull the sea lifted the vessel up and so considerably helped the final efforts in bringing her safely off. Mr. R. Cooke, the Acting Manager of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, directed the work of saving the vessel.

THE "OCAMPO" STRANDED IN A FOG.

DAMAGE ONLY SLIGHT.

Late on Wednesday night information was received in Hongkong that the British steamship *Ocampo* (Captain Hawkins) had stranded near the Footow village on Tamtow Island. The *Ocampo* was on a voyage from Japan to Australia, and was chartered by the Eastern and Australian Steamship Company (Messrs. Gibb, Livingston & Co., agents) and her agents are Messrs. Dodwell, Carlill & Co. The vessel stranded in a fog on approaching the eastern end of the harbour, and Captain Hawkins immediately sent a fireman in a fishing junk to report at Hongkong. The messenger arrived here on Wednesday night and arrangements were made for Mr. R. Cooke, the Acting Manager of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Limited, to visit the *Ocampo* Thursday afternoon. The steamer, however, came into port about noon. A diver was sent below to ascertain if any damage had been done. He reported that the keel was slightly twisted and one or two plates in the fore part bent, so the vessel will have to go into dock. She was to have sailed from here for Australia on Saturday, but of course her departure will have to be postponed.

THE STRANDING OF THE "ACTIV."

PROBABLE LOSS OF THE VESSEL.

It is feared that the *Activ* which went ashore at Sad Point, Cape Cami, on the 7th inst., will become a total wreck. On Sunday night Mr. A. R. Marty received the following letter from the agent at Hoihow. It was dated March 10th:—"Referring to my telegram of the 8th, the *Activ* on her way up from Pakhoi, which port she left at 7.15 p.m. on the 6th inst., went ashore in a fog at Sad Point, opposite Cape Cami, at 9.30 a.m. on the 7th. Immediately after she struck, water rushed into the forehold and engine room, both of which were flooded. It appears she has three holes in her bottom, that in the engine room being the worst. The captain at once sent the passengers on shore and the chief officer, Mr. Petersen, took a ship's boat and proceeded to Hoihow, 32 miles distant, arriving here at 4 a.m. on the 8th, when he came to my house and woke me up to break the sad news. I lost no time in sending four junks and forty coolies to the scene to save the passengers and cargo. Before my junks arrived, however, the captain engaged a passing junk and put all the passengers, thirteen in number, on board and sent them to Hoihow. By this time (3 p.m. on the 7th) the after hold of the ship was full of water, and on shore the passengers were surrounded by hundreds of natives. The next thing I did was to call upon the authorities for protection and they sent down a gunboat and war junks, with sixty soldiers under two mandarins, the Colonel going down himself to give orders. The gunboat has since returned, but the war junks are standing by the unfortunate ship. Part of the cargo, including a box of treasure and mails, has been

saved. The mails go by the *Triumph* and the cargo and passengers go by the *Hongkong*, leaving here on Sunday morning. I hope soon to see assistance to save the ship. The weather is fine, and although in a perilous condition on the rocks the ship is salvable, but if there is a delay and bad weather sets in she will most probably break up. The comprador has done everything for the comfort of the passengers and to save the cargo."

Following this letter came the following from the same source, dated March 11th, which was received by Mr. Marty yesterday morning:—"By the bearer I am forwarding to you a portion of the cargo saved from the *Activ*.

From a note received last night from Captain Storm grave fears are entertained that the *Activ* will soon break up with any little wind that may blow there, and as the wind is blowing a little high here the fate of the vessel may said to be sealed."

The thirteen passengers, all Chinese, arrived on Monday by the *Hongkong*. The cargo on the *Activ* consisted of wood and leather and there was also \$200 in the treasure room, which has been saved.

Mr. Marty has also received the following telegram from the agent. It is dated from Hoihow, March 12th:—"Activ ashore and fear will become a wreck."

SUPREME COURT.

April 13th.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HON. W. M. GOODMAN (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE TUNG SHANG WO FIRM v. THE SHAN LUNG BANK.

In this case the plaintiff firm claimed \$19,000 for money lent and advanced by the plaintiffs to the defendants. Mr. J. J. Francis, Q. C., instructed by Mr. Ewens, appeared for the plaintiff.

The addresses of the partners of the defendant Bank, who had left the colony, being unknown, a writ of Foreign Attachment was issued on the 11th ultimo and served on the garnishees.

Mr. Francis, after satisfying the Court that the formalities in connection with the writ of Foreign Attachment had been complied with, called Li Tin Pan, of the plaintiff firm, who proved the debt.

Judgment for amount claimed, with interest at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum from the 11th March, 1896, to this date, and costs.

Mr. Frederick Howell, the bailiff of the Court, proved execution of the writ of Foreign Attachment and the seizure of a sum of \$17,737; and the Court declared the same to be subject to attachment under the writ issued in this action. Application for execution was postponed pending the result of a Bankruptcy petition against the debtor firm, which was filed on the 12th March, 1896.

TSANG UT KAI v. THE SHAN LUNG BANK.

In this case the plaintiff, who is the managing partner of the firm mentioned as plaintiffs in the last-named suit, claimed the sum of \$10,200, being his private monies deposited with the defendant Bank.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q. C., instructed by Mr. Ewens, appeared for the plaintiff.

A writ of Foreign Attachment was issued in this suit also, but the return showed service on the garnishees only, all the property having been seized under the writ in the previous case.

The plaintiff having established his claim, judgment was given with costs.

The *Singapore Free Press* says:—Was it only by a coincidence that the Russian cruisers dawdled gently along from Colombo so as to allow them to arrive in the roads simultaneously with the French mail containing H.E. Li Hung-chang? If a coincidence, the incident is interesting; if designed, as we think it to be, the incident is rather more so, and the attention to our visitor is as astute as it is significant.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the afternoon of the 9th April at the offices. Hon. F. A. Cooper (Director of Public Works) presided, and there were also present—Dr. Atkinson (Acting Colonial Surgeon), Mr. H. B. Lethbridge (Acting Captain Superintendent of Police), Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. N. J. Ede, and Mr. H. McCallum (Secretary).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

A NEW PIER AT KENNEDY TOWN.

The PRESIDENT laid upon the table a plan of a pier which it was proposed to erect for the cattle and sheep and swine depot at Kennedy Town in response to an application made by the Colonial Secretary. The pier would be 200 feet long and 20 feet wide, and an estimate of cost would be sent to the Colonial Secretary. The plan was approved.

PLAGUE WORK.

The PRESIDENT reported in reference to plague work that the Acting Captain Superintendent of Police had furnished the Board with additional inspectors and interpreters from the police force and that His Excellency the General Commanding had lent the Board four men of the Royal Engineers and eight men of the Rifle Brigade, who commenced their duties on Friday last.

BAD WELL WATER.

The Government Analyst reported that six samples of well water analysed by him were unsuitable for potable purposes and the wells in question were ordered to be closed.

BASEMENTS.

Messrs. Leigh and Orange applied for permission to convert the basement floors at Nos. 112 and 116, Hollywood Road into ground floors by removing the soil from the walls of the houses and replacing it with concrete.

The PRESIDENT said the alteration would not be a sanitary improvement, and he moved that the applicants be informed that the Board would regret to see a proposal of this kind carried out, but at the same time the Board did not feel satisfied that at present it could prevent it.

Mr. EDE seconded, and the resolution was carried.

A QUESTION OF PIG STIES.

Mr. A. Rumjahn, managing proprietor of the East Point Dairy Farm, made an application respecting the removal of pig sties on Farm Lots 45 and 47. The sties are built on lots leased to the Company, who strongly objected to licences for keeping pigs on the ground being renewed, and they desired the sheds to be removed in order to minimise the danger of infection of diseases to their cattle.

The PRESIDENT moved that the applicant be informed that the renewal of the licences had been granted and that the matter appeared to be one outside the duties of the Board.—The resolution was carried.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

For the week ended 28th March the death rate was 33.6 per 1,000 per annum as compared with 17.1 for the corresponding period of last year. For the week ended 8th April the death rate was 25.9 per 1,000 per annum as compared with 18.8 for the corresponding week of last year.

THE INCREASE OF PLAGUE CASES.

The PRESIDENT—Owing to the sudden increase of plague cases during the Easter holidays I thought it advisable to take steps myself without calling a meeting of the Board and I ask the Board to confirm the action I took.

One of the steps taken by the President was the writing of a request to Major-General Black to place at the disposal of the Board for sanitary purposes men of the Royal Engineers and Rifle Brigade. His Excellency, in reply, said there was every disposition on the part of the military authorities to help as far as possible in the matter, and he placed at the disposal of the Board the number of the men required. The men reported themselves on Tuesday and commenced work at once. The President also wrote to the Acting Captain Superintendent of Police asking for a strict watch to be kept on passengers going to and coming from Canton,

and action had already been taken in this matter.

The Board unanimously approved of the President's action.

APPOINTMENT OF A PLAGUE SUB-COMMITTEE.

The ACTING COLONIAL SURGEON—I move that the Board appoint, under Ordinance 11 of 1895 a sub-committee consisting of the President, the Captain Superintendent of Police, and the Medical Officer of Health, to supervise and arrange all matters connected with cleansing and limewashing and house to house visitation within the areas infected by bubonic plague.

The PRESIDENT—I beg to second that. Carried.

HOUSES CLEANED.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH reported that during the past fortnight 588 houses, comprising 1,637 floors, had been inspected and cleansed by the temporary sanitary inspectors.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Board adjourned until Thursday week.

THE PLAGUE.

There were eight cases of plague on the 9th inst., five on the 10th, six on the 11th, thirteen on the 12th, and twelve on the 13th. Among the patients was a son of Mr. Mooney. The boy was about three years of age and he was first taken ill on Sunday morning. Dr. Hartigan attended him, but the little one, who was seen to be suffering from plague, died on Monday morning.

Two women were each fined \$15 at the Magistracy on Monday for carrying the body of a child which had died of plague. The women were met by an Indian constable late on Saturday evening and they bolted after dropping the body. The policeman loudly blew his whistle and two Riflemen chased the women, caught them, and gave them into the custody of the police. The soldiers then picked up the body and carried it to the Police Station. In consequence of the assistance they so willingly rendered they arrived late at the barracks and were reported, but of course their explanation freed them from any punishment.

Reports have been in circulation that the plague had made its appearance within the walls of the Asile de St Enfant, and the Revd. Mother even received a letter of condolence on the death from that cause of one of the Sisters. We learn that there is not the slightest foundation for the rumour, the Sisters being all in their usual health and good spirits, and there being no unusual sickness of any kind amongst the children. We have seen a letter from Dr. Paulsen, the medical attendant at the Convent, dated yesterday, in which he states that no case of plague has occurred there. Scrupulous cleanliness in every respect being strictly carried out, the Institution is probably in less danger from plague than any other house in the colony.

THE JAPANESE AND TRADE RESTRICTIONS IN FORMOSA.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

Tainanfu, 6th April.

You will, no doubt, long ere this have received my wire of the 31st ultimo, concerning the extraordinary action of the Japanese in arresting foreign compradores, confiscating camphor, and seizing all the books. The unfortunate foreign employes had to march a distance of fifteen miles, their captors refusing to allow them to have chairs. The greatest excitement prevailed, as may be supposed, and trade was brought to a complete standstill. Urgent telegrams to both Taipei and Tokyo have resulted in getting the release of the prisoners, but not until they had been mulcted in the sum of \$300 each. We have not yet heard as to whether the embargo has been taken off the foreign premises and the camphor restored. Since then we have heard that foreign camphor, on its way to the port, has been seized, and yesterday a wire came from Chip Chip stating that the camphor business there had been broken up. The conduct of the Japanese authorities seems inexplicable; indeed, no exact precedent for it can be found even in the worst Chinese days.

A most peculiar and unintelligible set of rules and regulations regarding sugar (which

if carried out amounts, practically, to prohibiting, or at least very materially restricting the produce) has just been issued. The old lekin stations are being furnished up and are to be in full swing on or after the 11th inst. The Treaty port is surrounded by these, and in fact a condition of affairs closely approaching that attempted by Liu Ming-chuan some years ago seems on the point of being once more instituted. Foreigners have tried hard to make every allowance for the Japanese as new comers, but it now seems only too evident that they have, at heart, a desire to obstruct and, if possible, drive foreign trade out of the island. We are confidently relying, however, that the efforts of our respective representatives at Tokyo are making will, in the end, bring about a state much more in keeping with justice and that condition of civilized amity which the Japanese so earnestly profess. It is perhaps only fair to admit there seems some reason to believe that much is due to the unbounded arrogance and ignorance of the smaller official fry, who appear to have been given a brief authority and power which no country unpossessed of the bureaucratic despotism so rampant in Japan would be capable of affording. To show the extent to which the Japanese are capable of going I append a translation of the "Sugar Regulations," the originals of which have been forwarded to the Foreign Consuls and, of course, purport to refer to foreigners as well as others.

(Translation.)

REGULATIONS FOR TAXATION OF SUGAR.

Rule 1.—The manufacturer, the intermediary, and the merchant shall all be considered persons engaged in the sugar trade.

Rule 2.—Any one proposing to deal in sugar must first apply to the proper authorities for a licence; if the same person starts business at several places he must receive a licence for each place.

Rule 3.—20 cents must be paid in advance for each licence.

Rule 4.—Should the licence be lost or spoilt, or should another succeed to the business or the licensee change his name or habitation, in all such cases the matter must be reported to the authorities, with a request for the issue of a new licence: fees to be paid according to the above rate.

Rule 5.—If business be given up, the circumstance must be reported and the licence surrendered and cancelled. Should there still be any sugar in stock on which duty has not been paid, it must pay the proper amount of duty.

Rule 6.—The licences must not be borrowed, bought, or sold, and must not be carelessly parted with.

Rule 7.—Every sugar mill must pay \$3 a year. Should the number of mills be increased, the tax must be paid for the current year on the increased number. If a fresh manufactory be started, the mill tax on such for the current year must be paid at the time the licence is applied for.

Rule 8.—The year during which a licence is good expires on the 31st January.

Rule 9.—The duty on sugar is as follows:—

On white sugar 35 cents per picul.

On brown sugar 30 cents per picul.

Rule 10.—Taxes of whatever nature may be paid either by the manufacturer, agent, or merchant.

Rule 11.—Should any sugar merchant desire to transport to the coast duty paid sugar for export, he must apply to the Tax Office for a transit pass; and the goods whilst en route to the coast must be accompanied by such pass for inspection.

Transit passes will be granted in accordance with the number applied for.

Rule 12.—At the time of export the merchant must report and point out the sugar to the examination office and pay the duties in accordance with the weight.

Rule 13.—If a dealer in sugar disposes of any to a retailer or appropriates a small quantity for his private use he must keep a note of the quantity and must on the fifth of every month make up a return of all small quantities disposed of in this way during the preceding month and pay duty in accordance with the 9th regulation. If he closes business or removes elsewhere, he must at once report the quantity disposed of and pay duty.

Rule 14.—Officers provided with proper credentials shall from time to time inspect the godowns, shops, mills, all the account books, and also the sugar manufactured.

Rule 15.—Transit passes shall be valid for three months from date of issue.

Rule 16.—Sugar intended for export must (with the exception of such as is intended for Japan) be examined and pay duty at the Custom-house and on arrival at its destination the Customs duty receipts and other evidence may be presented for the inspection and stamp of the Japanese Consul. Should any sugar be brought back to Formosa and satisfactory proof be tendered, a proportionate amount of duty will be refunded by the local Custom-house in the form of drawback certificates, which shall be valid for three years.

Rule 17.—Persons illegally engaging in the sugar business without a licence shall be liable to a fine of from \$5 to \$50 and confiscation of the sugar manufactured and also of the sugar sold.

Rule 18.—Persons resisting the inspection stipulated for by the 12th and 14th rules will be liable to fines of from \$5 to \$50.

Rule 19.—Any persons committing a breach of the 11th rule and clandestinely conveying sugar to the coast for export without a Transit pass shall be liable to a fine of from \$10 to \$100 and the sugar confiscated.

Rule 20.—Breach of the 6th regulation shall be visited by a fine of from \$2 to \$20.

Rule 21.—Persons committing breaches of 4th, 5th, or 13th rules by neglecting to report to the authorities shall be visited by fines of from \$1 to \$5.

Rule 22.—Anyone aiding and abetting the evasion of duty shall be fined from \$3 to \$30.

Rule 23.—Duty must be paid by the dealer in accordance with the 9th rule on all sugar in possession on the day announced for the enforcement of these rules.

A PRISON WARDER AS AMATEUR MILK ANALYST.

The recent milk adulteration case has had an amusing sequel. For some time a Chinese milkman in Cochrane Street has been supplying an Indian warder at the gaol with a pint of milk every morning. The warder has a very sensitive palate and lately he persuaded himself that his matutinal milk was adulterated with a considerable quantity of water and he therefore decided to distinguish himself as an amateur analyst. By some means he managed to get possession of the prison hospital hydrometer and with this he made many experiments with the milk supplied to him, the outcome of the experiments being that the suspicions first aroused by his delicate palate were without doubt, to his mind at any rate, confirmed. He determined to take decisive action. On the morning of the 10th inst. the Chinaman took the usual quantity of milk to the gaol and he was politely asked to remain for a few minutes in the warder's quarters. "Barkis was willin'." The warder then went away and tested the milk in the hydrometer, returning shortly afterwards in triumph to the unsuspecting milkman, who was informed that the milk was largely adulterated; the hydrometer said so. This was apparently strange news to the milkman, but protests were of avail and he was marched off to the police station by the victorious warder and charged with selling adulterated milk. Later on the culprit was taken before Commander W. C. H. Hastings at the Magistracy, but of course the charge was dismissed, the Magistrate informing the warder that the proper course to pursue was to take the milk sealed to an analyst, as there could be no conviction on unscientific evidence.

M. Carton, the Belgian military engineer now residing at Paknam, has submitted a report to the Siamese Government recommending a new series of forts at the mouth of the river, and considerable alterations and improvements in the old ones. A complete change in the river defences is contemplated, and large sums are about to be expended on guns for the new scheme.—Siam Free Press.

CRIMINAL POISONING IN HONGKONG.

On the afternoon of the 10th April Mr. W. E. Crow Government Analyst, delivered a lecture at the Hongkong Odd Volumes Society's rooms on "Criminal Poisoning in Hongkong." There was a large attendance, amongst those present being His Excellency the Governor, Sir William Robinson. The Chairman was Hon. H. E. Pollock.

Mr. CROWE said—Among the more serious criminal acts there is perhaps no offence which excites greater interest in the minds of the public and to which the resources of science are more strenuously applied by the authorities, in order to bring the offender to justice, than that of criminal poisoning.

The subject of poisoning generally naturally divides itself into two heads:—

1.—The self administration of poison either by misadventure or for the purpose of suicide.

2.—The administration of poison to any other person with intent (a) to injure, aggrieve, or annoy such person (misdemeanour); (b) to endanger the life of such person or so as thereby to inflict upon such person any grievous bodily harm (felony); (c) to enable himself or any other person to commit any indictable offence (felony).

The maximum penalties provided by Ordinance 4 of 1865 for these crimes are penal servitude for three years in the case of (a), for ten years in the case of (b), and life in the case of (c).

I propose in this lecture to confine my remarks for the most part to the poisonous agents as to the use of which for criminal purposes in this colony authentic records are in existence, and to make only incidental reference, for the sake of analogy, to substances the use of which has been brought out in evidence in the more important trials for murder by poisoning in Great Britain.

First, with regard to accidental and suicidal poisoning. So far as the Chinese are concerned there is only one agent used by suicides, viz. opium, in the form of the aqueous extract in almost general use by the Chinese for smoking. These cases present but few features of interest to either the public or the medical or chemical jurist. In the majority of instances such a large dose of the drug is taken that it is rare indeed for a life to be saved. Moreover, owing to the soporific effect of the poison, it is seldom that suspicion is aroused before the subject is beyond all medical aid.

Deaths or injury from poisoning by misadventure have happily been very infrequent and have been confined to members of the foreign community. Carbolic acid—imbibed in mistake for port wine; chloral—an overdose of a sleeping draught; and atropine, the active principle of belladonna and allied plants, are the chief agents which have been detected in the Government Laboratory in connection with investigations conducted by Her Majesty's coroner.

Coming now to the crimes falling under the second heading we approach a subject at once intensely interesting, not only to the medical and chemical expert, but also to officers of the detective service and to the general public. It is a singular fact, and in the eyes of the public a matter for congratulation, that the range of the criminal mind in civilised and semi-civilised countries, as regards the number of available or suitable poisonous agents, is a very limited one. The statistics of crime compiled in Great Britain afford a very good illustration of this. The three most important trials in our own time, viz., those of Dr. Lamson (the Wimbledon poisoner), Mrs. Maybrick, and Dr. Neale (the Lambeth poisoner), demonstrate the use of three well known poisons, viz., aconitine, arsenic, and strychnine; and a survey of the leading cases embraced by half a century adds only two more substances to this short but deadly list, viz., prussic acid and antimony.

On this side of the globe, so far as laboratory and criminal records enable us to form an estimate, the list of poisons used in graver offences is correspondingly small, and includes the following:—

- (i.) Aconite
- (ii.) Arsenic
- (iii.) Datura
- (iv.) Gelsemium

ARSENICAL POISONING.

The Chinese are acquainted with the fer-oxide or arsenious acid pak-sun-shak; realgar, the red or bi-sulphide hung-wong; orpiment, the yellow or fer-sulphide tsz-wong; and a mineral known as hung-sun, which appears to be a mixture of the oxides and sulphides. Specimens of these compounds, apparently natural minerals, will be found on the table. I am also able to lay before you specimens of orpiment and realgar from Indian sources.

The year 1857—during the administration of Sir John Bowring—is a memorable one in the history of this colony on account of the wholesale poisoning by arsenic that was effected. The Press of that period unfortunately contain but meagre accounts of this gross outrage. The main facts of the case, so far as I have been able to glean them from printed records and from the statements of Europeans who were in or near the colony at that time, are that early in the morning of the 15th of January a large number of residents were taken ill soon after eating bread supplied by the Chinese baker A Lum, that the symptoms displayed were those of arsenical poisoning, and that not a single case terminated fatally. I have heard doubts expressed as to whether this was really a case of poisoning by arsenic. At this distant date direct confirmatory proof in the shape of a chemical analysis of the bread is, it is to be feared, out of the question. It may be as well to state that instances of wholesale or mass poisoning by arsenic are not unknown in the West. Taylor quotes a case in which 340 children at an industrial school near London were so poisoned in 1857. The quantity of arsenic taken by each child was estimated to be about one grain. The whole of the children recovered.

Old residents with whom I have discussed the A Lum case declare that there was never any doubt at the time as to arsenic being the poison used; and that the opinion was generally held that A Lum in his anxiety to rid the colony of the foreign element used too much arsenic, which, acting promptly as an emetic, accounted for the non-fatal termination of any of the cases. Now arsenic is a very heavy and only slightly soluble salt. It had either been mixed in powdered form with the flour or dissolved in the water used to prepare the dough. The probabilities are that the latter course was the one adopted. Had the poison in the form of powder been received into the stomach it is inconceivable that all who partook of the bread would have escaped with their lives.

My predecessor, Mr. Hugh McCallum, quotes a case in which a native doctor was charged with "administering a noxious drug." The liquid forwarded by the police was found to contain in solution the equivalent of 90 grains of arsenious acid.

In 1894 a bowl of curried fowl was analyzed at the request of the principal Army Medical Officer and found to contain 84.38 grains of orpiment. The curry had been prepared for one of the Lascar Artillerymen. Again last year a similar case was investigated; this time from the Hongkong Regiment. A small quantity of food, less than one ounce, was found to have been mixed with 33 grains of the same compound. There were no Police Court proceedings in either of these cases. Whether the incorporation of the orpiment in the food was due to accident or design is uncertain. There is nothing remarkable in the fact of the Indian soldiers having this poisonous compound in their possession, as they are in the habit of using it as a depilatory. Chevers in his "Medical Jurisprudence for India" quotes several cases of death from the administration of orpiment.

ACONITE POISONING.

In September, 1894, a case of poisoning by aconite was the subject of an investigation in the Police Court. The vehicle for the administration of the poison was a decoction of coffee served in the usual way at a tiffin party of some members of the foreign community. The case fell to the ground through lack of evidence. In the small quantity of the beverage submitted for analysis, aconitine, the active principle of monkshood, was detected in considerable quantity; and the escape from death of those to whom it had been served can only be attributed to the post-prandial habit of sipping the liquid instead of swallowing a large quantity at a single gulp.

It appears that the tingling sensation on the tongue, characteristic of aconite, was noted immediately after the coffee had been tasted and suspicions having been aroused the remainder of the beverage was rejected. It is to be regretted that the criminal was not tracked down in this case. Poisoning by aconite is quite another thing to drugging by datura, and death has frequently resulted therefrom. This is, I believe, the first case of aconite poisoning in the criminal annals of Hongkong and the use of this powerful drug by the Chinese for an unlawful purpose is of interest to the toxicologist in that it adds another to the many points of similarity between the agents used in criminal poisoning in India and in South China. It will be remembered that the active principle of aconite was the substance employed by Dr. Lamson, the Wimbledon poisoner.

The specimens of aconite root on the table were purchased at native drug shops in this city. Locally the root is known as "ts'ò-u." I am unable to state with any degree of certainty from which of the eight species of *Aconitum*, recognized by the new authorities as indigenous to China, they have been derived.

GELSEMIUM ELEGANS.

This interesting plant furnishes a drug which has on several occasions been used with deadly effect by the Chinese criminal. The root, which is the only part of the plant used, contains an alkaloid belonging to the strychnine or tetanus group. It is one of the most powerful poisons derived from the vegetable kingdom. In the native drug shops the dried root is found under the name "ü mun kéung." In South China the plant is commonly termed "tün ch'ung ts'ò." It is a woody twiner, growing very sparingly on this island, but more abundantly on the neighbouring mainland of China. The botanical characters of the whole plant are well set forth in the coloured plate—the work of a Chinese artist—on the table. Three well authenticated cases of death from the administration of this poison have occurred in Hongkong during the last twenty-five years. Dr. C. J. Wharry records a case early in 1874 in which a native doctor was charged with manslaughter for having with fatal effect administered a decoction of the root to a shopman aged about thirty years. It appeared from the evidence that the deceased ate a hearty breakfast at 10 a.m., took the decoction at about 3.30 p.m., became giddy, with dimness of sight, loss of power in limbs, irregular breathing, and died in about two hours.

In January, 1884, a case of alleged murder—the victims being a Chinese engineer and his daughter—was the subject of a prolonged investigation by the coroner. A verdict of wilful murder was returned by the jury, with the result that the engineer's wife was charged with the crime at the Magistracy and subsequently committed for trial at the Supreme Court. The case, however, fell to the ground through lack of evidence. It was in the course of my investigation in this case that the active principle of "tün cheung ts'ò" was first isolated and chemically and physiologically studied. The second case within my experience occurred on the 26th November last, the victim being a Chinese female 18 years of age, residing with her parents, at 32, Temple Street, Yaumati. This case has not been dealt with in any of the Courts at present, the efforts of Inspector Witchell to sift the facts having unfortunately been frustrated by the members of the girl's family removing into Chinese territory immediately after an investigation had been instituted. The girl was found dead by the inspector at 3.45 p.m. It was alleged that she had had a quarrel with her parents the previous evening and again at 10 o'clock the following morning. At 2 p.m. the father returned and found his daughter suffering from the effects of poison. According to his statement the girl confessed that she had taken the poison in question and pointed out the pot in which she had boiled the drug. The sudden disappearance of the family certainly does not support this allegation. For the present the case can only be regarded as a very mysterious one.

I would invite the attention of any police officers who may be present to the characters of the root discovered by Inspector Witchell in this case. The production of such an exhibit is of immense value to the analyst in that it

furnishes a clue that may enable him from the very outset to concentrate his attention on the poison that was actually the cause of death. In such instances the police may possibly be able to follow up the clue and trace the source of supply of the drug; but in the absence of restrictions on the sale of poison used for criminal purposes—the alkaloid morphine alone excepted—I am not very sanguine as to their chance of success in this direction. Death rapidly follows the administration of this poison. There is no instance of a recovery on record. The victims in the 1884 case were dead when they were brought to the Civil Hospital.

The active principle of the root of *Gelsemium elegans* has not as yet been fully investigated. It is, however, an alkaloid possessing such marked chemical and physiological characters that it can be detected with certainty in cases of poisoning.

DATURA POISONING.

The solanaceous plant furnishing the drug known by the Chinese in Hongkong and South China as "nau yeung fa" is the thorn apple; the *Datura alba* of Nees. The dried flower, in bundles of various sizes, is the only part of the plant sold by the native druggists. The fresh entire herb may frequently be seen on the herbalist's stall. The dried flowers weigh on an average four grains each. The plant is common in waste places near villages both here and on the mainland and also on the neighbouring islands. I am able to exhibit specimens of the dried flowers and also a coloured plate showing the characters of the plant in flower and in fruit. This species differs from the *Datura stramonium* of Europe in having larger white flowers, brown seeds, and a less thorny capsule splitting irregularly. The seeds of the latter are black.

For many years previous to the appointment of an analyst to the Colonial Government in 1879, the plant "nau yeung fa" had been known to Police Magistrates in Hongkong as furnishing material in use by robbers to drug their victims; but, although frequently brought to notice in the law courts, there is no evidence to warrant the assumption that prior to 1882 it had been identified with the *Datura alba*.

In the official medical records of Hongkong, the first mention of datura is made by Mr. McCallum in the analytical section of the Colonial Surgeon's annual report for 1882. Some years ago Mr. McCallum, formerly Government analyst, gave me a few notes of the investigations made by him which led up to the discovery that a solanaceous plant and possibly *Datura alba* was a common stupefying agent amongst the Chinese in Hongkong. He states that during the years 1880-1882 cases of alleged drugging were frequently before the courts and nearly always connected with robbery, the victims being in most cases returned emigrants. An impression seems to have pervaded the minds of the Magistrates and the police that the complainants were either drunk from alcohol, or that the cases had simply been trumped up by some evil-disposed person for the sake of revenge. In June or July, 1882, a Chinese female child was brought late one evening to the Civil Hospital by the police in a narcotised condition. The girl had been stolen, and was found by the police in a junk about to leave the harbour. When roused the child was most vicious, and the temper displayed by her pointed to madness. The pupils of both eyes were widely dilated. Left alone the child soon fell asleep, and next morning, beyond displaying great stupidity, was quite well. The pupils were still dilated.

Mr. McCallum then proceeded to examine a bundle of flowers reputed by the Chinese as a stupefying drug, an extract of which acted as a powerful mydriatic, both when administered internally and when applied locally to the eye. Some of the extract was given to a small monkey, and the effects produced by it were similar to those observed in the little girl. The flowers were submitted to the Director of the Botanic Gardens and identified as those of *Datura alba*.

Shortly after this, and while the datura investigation was still being conducted in the Government laboratory, a second instance of mydriatic poisoning was brought to the notice of the Civil Medical authorities. Mr. McCallum's note of this case runs as follows:—"A Chinese barber in good health, but old and anæmic,

soon after the beginning of his evening meal, felt himself getting giddy, and shortly afterwards became unconscious. He was found by the police next morning still stupid and talking a lot of nonsense. When brought to the Hospital at 11 a.m. his gait was unsteady; he trembled and looked very foolish. The pupils of both eyes were widely dilated, and he complained of a pain in his throat. Next day he recovered; the pupils were, however, still dilated and he complained of feeling giddy. In his official report Mr. McCallum remarks that "unfortunately it was impossible to prove what particular plant was used in either of these cases, but no doubt it was a *Datura*, and most probably the variety known as *D. alba*."

Since 1882 there have been numerous cases of mydriatic poisoning. The particulars of the following case are interesting, as it was conclusively proved that the flowers of *Datura alba* had been employed.

At about 3 a.m. on the 8th May, 1887, two adult females (Chinese) and an adult male (Chinese) were brought by the police to the Civil Hospital suffering from a mydriatic poison. As the police version of the affair was so confusing it was decided to defer making enquiries until the patients had so far recovered as to be able to remember the early details of the occurrence. On the morning of their discharge from the Hospital, the elder of the women stated, that about ten o'clock on the night of the 7th she saw the third patient put a small bundle into the utensil which contained the evening meal. When she enquired why he did this, he replied that it was good medicine. Later on she saw him remove the bundle, and observed that he threw it into a corner of the kitchen. The woman, who gave her evidence in a very straightforward and intelligent manner, was requested to proceed at once to her home, make a careful search for the supposed drug, and bring it at once to the Civil Hospital. In half an hour she returned bearing in her hand a bundle of flowers, which, although somewhat mangled, were easily recognized as those of *Datura alba*.

Dr. Chevers states that persons who have been drugged by *datura* "should have more than a week allowed them to recover their memories."

In another case a pot of stew seized by the police contained a large number of sections of a flower which were indistinguishable from *datura* flowers. The chemical analysis confirmed the results of the previous physical examination of the food.

The symptoms, as displayed by the Chinese, appear to vary but little. Soon after the administration of the drug the victim suffers from dimness of sight and staggers as he attempts to walk; he chatters away in an unintelligible manner, and laughingly grasps at imaginary objects. This latter is perhaps to the ordinary observer the most striking feature in *datura* poisoning. The patient sits up in bed and picks at the bed clothes as though to catch some passing object, and will amuse himself by attempting to draw out imaginary threads from the ends of his fingers. If the case is a mild one the patient will, if left alone, fall asleep, and after several hours' rest be practically well. In severe cases the patient acts more like a maniac. He recoils with a shriek from anyone who comes near him, and offers the most violent resistance to medical treatment. In all cases the pupils are dilated, and mydriasis will remain for some time after the other symptoms have subsided. The effects of *datura* are usually produced in about fifteen minutes after the administration of the poison, but the activity of the herb would have to be in a liquid form to act so rapidly as this.

There is no record at the Hongkong Civil Hospital of a single case of *datura* drugging terminating fatally.

The experience of last twelve years leads me to infer that the only motive for administration of *datura* is to produce stupefaction for the purpose of kidnapping and robbery generally.

FISH POISONING.

Two instances of malicious fish-poisoning are on record; the first occurred in 1882, the second in 1887. The former case was fully investigated by Mr. McCallum. The substance used by the Chinese for this purpose consists of the seeds of *Camellia oleifera*, minus the oil. It occurs in

commerce in the form of circular flat discs 7 inches in diameter and weighing on an average 2½ ozs. It is known by the Chinese as "ch'a tsai ping" or "ch'a fu." Mr. McCallum states that its activity is due to the glucoside saponin which exists in the seeds to the extent of about 10 per cent. The seeds also contain about 40 per cent. of a fixed oil, the better qualities of which form an admirable substitute for olive oil in many operations in which the latter is employed.

The following are the particulars of the case I was called upon to investigate in 1886. On the night of the 14th September of that year some men were observed to put some "ch'a tsai ping" into a live fish tank in one of the city markets. The fish were killed almost immediately. The water was removed and thrown away and a fresh supply put into the tank. The only material available for analysis was the dead fish. The Police Magistrate, Mr. Wodehouse, referred two questions to me for consideration and report:—

- 1.—Can the active principle of "ch'a tsai ping" be detected in the dead fish?
- 2.—Are fish so destroyed fit for human consumption?

In this enquiry I had the benefit of the assistance of Mr. Ford, the Superintendent of the Botanical Department, and also of Mr. Lockhart, the Registrar-General, who was good enough to obtain the opinion of the Chinese fish merchants as to the suitability or otherwise as an article of diet of fish killed by this poison.

Mr. Ford, who had recently returned from a botanical tour in the neighbouring provinces, where he had seen the whole process of extracting the tea oil and the preparation of the cake, gave me the following information. In my enquiry I had specially alluded to the possibility of more than one substance entering into the composition of the cake.

"*Camellia oleifera*, Abel, extensively grown in South China for the production of seeds which yield a valuable oil known as tea oil, 'ch'a tsai ping,' is the refuse matter left after the oil has been extracted. The preparation is very simple. The seeds are collected in October or November, dried and taken to a mill, where they are crushed in a circular mortar or trough by a pestle driven through it by water power. The seeds after being crushed are steamed and then the mass is placed in a powerful press which expresses the oil. The refuse, after the extraction of the oil, is the article known as 'ch'a tsai ping.' It is produced in cakes weighing, when dry, about 3 ozs. and 3½ lbs. respectively. The quality of the two kinds of cake is the same. I am not aware that anything besides the seeds of *Camellia oleifera* enters into the composition of these cakes.

"Ch'a tsai ping is used by the Chinese as a hair-wash and as soap for cleansing both the person and clothes. It is also used for the eradication of earth worms from the soil in which plants in pots are grown. In these gardens we also use it for eradicating earth worms from grass lawns. For this purpose the cake is crushed and boiled. The decoction is then diluted and poured on the grass when the worms come to the surface of the ground. As a rule the small worms die, but the larger ones after a time recover. After being picked up from the grass the worms are often given to fowls and ducks, which devour them readily and apparently thrive on them, experiencing no inconvenience from the effects of the 'ch'a tsai ping' with which the worms were killed."

The fish merchants, furnished Mr. Lockhart with a memorandum, from which the following extract is taken:—

"In ponds of great dimensions these drugs (more than one is mentioned) are often used for killing fish and shrimps and are so powerful that not a single fish can escape. The fish so caught are offered for sale, and the writer has never heard of a single instance in which any one has suffered from eating fish obtained in this way. 'Ch'a fu' is sometimes used for killing earth worms."

Mention should be made of the fact that the action of saponin on man has been but little studied. Wynter Blyth is, however, of opinion that it is an undoubted poison and capable of endangering the life of man.

The dead fish sent to the Laboratory by the

police did not afford evidence of the glucoside.

With regard to the questions as to the use as human food of fish destroyed by these means, I could do no more than present for the consideration of the Magistrate the following points:—

(a.) The absence of any record of such fish acting injuriously.

(b.) The opinion of the Chinese as to their harmless nature.

(c.) The fact that birds are not affected by worms similarly destroyed.

Personally I am inclined to the belief that the action of this substance would not render fish injurious as an article of diet.

MORPHINE INJECTING.

This brief survey of the poisons in unlawful use by the Chinese would not be complete without a reference to the pernicious habit of injecting morphine hypodermically which developed a few years ago, and which it is to be feared will carry widespread ruin throughout China unless strong measures for its suppression are adopted and strenuously maintained. A more lamentable sequel to the opium smoking habit can scarcely be conceived. Since the passing of the Morphine Ordinance, No. 13 of 1893, the police have been very successful in their raids on the divans where this practice has been carried on. It would, however, be a Utopian idea to suppose for a moment that vigorous local action will in any way be reflected on the neighbouring Empire. Dismal though the outlook may be, there is still one satisfactory consideration, viz., that China through her foreign Customs, can effectually stop the importation of morphine—if she wills it.

An interesting discussion ensued, the Chairman, Colonel Faithfull, and Mr. Denny asking questions. In reply, Mr. Crow said that he could only quote one case of any importance in Great Britain in which acconite was used by a murderer, although it was a plant growing in many gardens. He then mentioned various tests which had been applied to small animals with a view of discovering the action of the poison, and, in reference to a point raised by the Chairman, said it was quite true that the puncture of an injection needle in the case of a mouse was equal to the thrust of a spear in the case of a man, but it was always preferable to experiment with small animals as then the action of a very small quantity of poison could be ascertained. Another test which was sometimes applied was that of tasting acconite. In regard to the administration of *datura* Mr. Crow mentioned that the flowers were sometimes thrown into a pot of boiling rice or into a pot of vegetable stew. Other cases had been recorded where the poison had been prepared in one of the Chinese wines, and from a criminal point of view this was the best way to administer it. He did not think that the puffing of poisons smoke into a person's face had such an effect as was generally thought. The effect was not immediate and incidents, such as seeing a river or flowing water, were imagined some time after the poison was taken.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Crow concluded the proceedings. The Chairman performed the "delicate duty" of announcing that next Friday he would lecture on the younger Pitt.

It appears that the news of the anticipated disturbance at Canton in connection with the now abandoned scheme for the regulation of the boat traffic circulated far and wide through the surrounding country, with the result that all the bad characters for miles around were flocking to the city to revel in riot and plunder. The shopkeepers, hotel-keepers, tea-house proprietors, etc., who were instigating the proposed disturbance, then awoke to the consciousness that they would be the victims of their own folly, for the rowdies realised that an attack on Shameen was only likely to bring them hard knocks and little coin and that the occasion could better be utilised for incendiary fires and a general looting of rich native stores and hongas, where little resistance could be met. Hence the sudden reversal of all incitement to attack foreigners. The agitators had, however, approached rather near the brink and only drew back in time. It is said that the changes proposed in connection with the better control of the harbour could now be easily carried out if effected judiciously.

OLIVERS FREEHOLD MINES, LIMITED.

The first general meeting of the shareholders in the Olivers Freehold Mines, Limited, was held on Saturday, at noon, at the Company's Office, Queen's Road Central. Mr. J. D. Humphreys presided, and there were also present—Dr. Noble, Messrs. G. R. Stevens, C. Ewens, H. Crawford, J. S. Hagen, Hart Buck, A. H. Mancell, C. Inchbald, C. H. Grace, G. H. Potts, J. H. Cox, F. W. Hall, E. S. Kelly, W. H. Potts, W. B. Polishwalla, W. D. Sutton, and J. A. Jupp (Secretary).

The SECRETARY read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, this is a statutory meeting which we are obliged to hold within four months from the date of the formation of the Company. The Company was registered on the 30th of December last and, as you know, was formed for the purpose of purchasing and developing a large area of auriferous ground at Mount McDonald, New South Wales. The properties are known as "Olivers Freehold" and the "Eureka mine." Both these properties were fully and accurately described in our prospectus and I need not therefore repeat what you can re-read for yourselves if you wish. Our prospects since then have improved, owing to the attention of mining promoters in London having been directed to this district by the success of the Wentworth, which was floated with a capital of £500,000 about four years ago and has since then returned £250,000 net dividends to the shareholders. Nearer still to us quite recently, in October, 1895, the Gibraltar Gold Mining Co. was floated in London with a capital of £300,000 fully subscribed, and later still, since we bought the "Olivers Freehold and the "Eureka," "The Great Eastern Ulive," immediately contiguous to the southern boundary of our Eureka lease, has been sold to a London syndicate and will no doubt be shortly floated. Enquiry has also been made for your mining properties and we have been asked by wire to name our price. We replied by wire that we were prepared to negotiate on the basis of £60,000 for the property in cash and shares, and have since received a telegram from Mr. Ackroyd to the following effect:—"Negotiating the sale of the entire block. Prospects are encouraging." We are not at all anxious to sell these mines even for this large sum of money, because, although it is a big price, we believe that after we have developed and prospected within the means of the small capital at our disposal we may do much better, either by floating a company for a larger sum in London or by working the mines, if we have sufficient capital, on our own account. After all the trouble we have taken to get together a mining staff consisting of three of the most able and trustworthy working mining managers in Australia and a staff of picked working miners selected by them, we certainly are not in favour of too hastily parting with a property which, given sufficient capital, is in our opinion certain to achieve results which will compare favourably with the best mining industries in Australia. Our last advices from the mines are dated the 13th ult. The representative of our firm there, Mr. Willmott, jun., informs us that while waiting for the transfer of the "Eureka" they had employed their time in prospecting the "Olivers," and had a windlass and everything fixed up over a spot where good gold has been obtained, but immediately on the transfer of the "Eureka" Mr. Willmott, sen., advised they should make a start at once with that mine; and finding that the shaft, which had been sunk to a depth of 85 feet by the previous owners, had been sunk over the old workings, and was therefore insecure and incapable of being carried to any great depth, they wired on the 24th February: "Cheaper to sink a new shaft for 'Eureka,' and on receiving our reply "Sink" Mr. Willmott pegged out a new shaft the same day 25 feet west of the old one, and on the 25th and 26th it was sunk to a depth of 7 feet. The logs were waiting and it was then logged to a sufficient depth to take the poppet heads. Work was then commenced to clear the heads ready for shifting, and they were shifted bodily and placed over the new shaft without the slightest hitch or damage.

This will give you an idea of the class of men you have on the job. If you know what poppet heads are and the immense weight they are, and that they are surmounted by a sort of small covered hut on the top to protect the men at their work in lifting the earth and throwing it down clear of the shafts, and that they are raised above the ground, you will see there is an immense weight, and that the performance therefore is a very good one. Tenders were then called for 150 feet, and these will be opened on the 16th March, and we think they will be a good bit below the estimate, including timbering. The engine and house are in good order, but a new dam will be built to supply the boiler with water, as the present one would absorb too much power in pumping. We are expecting a telegram to give the progress made up to date; and if it comes to hand during the meeting I will read it to you. Up to date 25,000 shares in the Company have been allotted or reserved for the mining staff in Australia, including 15,000 A and 10,000 B shares. We propose to offer the whole of the remaining shares, which are all B, to the shareholders only, at par, irrespective of the market rate for the time being. An issue of B shares will be offered to the registered shareholders in the proportion of one B share for every share they hold. Every shareholder on the register on Thursday, the 23rd inst., will be entitled to an allotment of one B share for every share, whether A or B, registered in his name; and it is proposed that an instalment of one dollar only shall be paid for every share applied for, and that no further calls shall be payable without at least two months' notice in respect of these shares. When more money is required a final issue will be made of the remaining 10,000 B shares, on which an instalment of \$1 a share will be payable in the first instance, and these shares will be also offered to the shareholders in the proportion of one to every five that they then hold. Notice by advertisement will be given in due course. I shall be pleased to answer any questions.

The CHAIRMAN—No questions being asked, gentlemen, I would now ask you to appoint a Consulting Committee. The ordinary work we can conduct ourselves, but in the case of a sale we should like to be supported by a Consulting Committee. We should not like to take the responsibility of selling your property entirely on ourselves, and we are supposed to have a Consulting Committee under the articles of association. I have thought over the matter and I think the Consulting Committee should be composed of gentlemen who know something about it and about the district. I would therefore suggest the names and propose that Mr. Geo. R. Stevens, Mr. C. Ewens, and Dr. Noble be appointed a Consulting Committee.

Captain TILLET—I am very pleased to second that suggestion.

Mr. C. INCHBALD—I would like to propose an amendment to that, Mr. Humphreys. The amendment I would propose is that the Committee should have the power of adding to their number.

The CHAIRMAN—Yes, of course.

Mr. INCHBALD—Have you no objection to add that to your proposal? I should like it put within your proposition. I should like to add, "with the right to add others to their number."

The CHAIRMAN—I adopt the amendment, gentlemen.

After consulting with Mr. Ewens, the CHAIRMAN said—Mr. Ewens has advised me in that case to call the shareholders to do it. It would be no Consulting Committee if they were appointed by ourselves. I shall be very pleased, on the application of any two or three shareholders, to call a meeting to add to the number of the Consulting Committee.

Mr. INCHBALD—Mr. Hart Buck might go on.

The CHAIRMAN—Mr. Hart Buck is a partner of our firm, and we are the General Managers. You have got the services of my son, of my firm, and Mr. Willmott down in Australia. You have got all these and all you want is a Consulting Committee to support them and consult with us on behalf of the shareholders in the event of anything happening out of the usual course. The ordinary run of business we are quite capable of dealing with. I mentioned these names because these gentlemen are all very large shareholders, and two of them know all about it. Dr. Noble is a very

large shareholder and a large shareholder should go on. The other two are very large shareholders, and that is the reason I mentioned their names. Of course, I think that the shareholders are safe when their interests are represented by the General Managers, who hold a very large proportion, say about one-fourth of the capital of the Company, and the Consulting Committee, who hold a very large proportion of it.

Mr. INCHBALD was rising to speak again when The CHAIRMAN said—I think it would have been better to discuss these things before the meeting instead of at the meeting.

After further consultation the CHAIRMAN said—It has been proposed by myself and seconded by Captain TILLET that Dr. Noble, Mr. G. R. Stevens, and Mr. C. Ewens be appointed a Consulting Committee.

Carried.

Mr. INCHBALD—I am told now by the solicitor of the Company that it is feasible that I should propose, and I do propose, that the General Managers be requested as they see fit to add two or more members to the Consulting Committee.

Mr. EWENS—One or more.

Mr. INCHBALD—Well, we will say one or more. That the General Managers be requested to add one or more members to the Consulting Committee as they see fit to do so. Will anybody second that?

Mr. G. H. POTTS—I have very much pleasure in seconding.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, I think that concludes the business of the meeting. I hope we are going to be successful, and I believe we shall be. (Applause).

THE YANGTSE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.

The following are the accounts attached to the report of the Yangtze Insurance Association, Limited:—

WORKING ACCOUNT FOR 12 MONTHS ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1895.

Dr.	\$ c.
To net premium, less re-insurances, &c.	395,200.04
To interest account	56,268.58
To transfer fees account	126.00
To profit realized on sales of securities	4,172.57
	\$455,767.19
Cr.	\$ c.
By claims paid, less re-insurances, &c.	83,181.25
By agency commissions	15,927.05
By head office and general charges	24,667.21
By London charges	20,159.86
By Hongkong charges	4,427.20
By agency charges	7,301.47
By directors', committees' and auditor's fees...	5,270.71
By balance	294,832.44

WORKING ACCOUNT, 1894, AND FORMER YEARS.

Dr.	\$ c.
To balance of working account, 1894, from last account	328,695.22
To balance of working account, former years, from last account	120,594.18

Cr.	\$ c.
By amount transferred to reserve fund	40,000.00
By net claims, re-insurance premium, and premium returned, &c., account 1894	139,264.40
By dividend—1894 account—\$6 per share on 6,948 shares	41,688.00
By special dividend—former years account—\$3 per share on 6,948 shares	20,844.00
By net claims, and all payments account former years	23,182.59
By balance	184,360.41

BALANCE SHEET, ON 31st DECEMBER, 1895.

Dr.	\$ c.
LIABILITIES.	
Capital	3,000 shares
Less unallotted ... 1,052 shares	
	6,948 shares of \$100 ea.
upon which the sum of \$60 per share has been called and paid up	416,880.00
Reserve fund	350,000.00
Exchange and investment fluctuation account	72,219.98
Working account, 1895	294,832.44
Working account, 1894 & former years	184,360.41
Uncollected dividends and bonus	2,734.70
	\$1,321,027.48

Cr.	\$	c.
ASSETS.		
Midland Railway Co. Consolidated 4 per cent. Perpetual preference stock, £11,286	104,520.16	
Great Northern Railway Co. Consolidated 4 per cent. Perpetual preference stock, £2,227.10	20,628.97	
London and North Western Railway Co. Consolidated 4 per cent. preference stock, £3,737.10	34,618.17	
Great Western Railway Co. 4 per cent. debenture stock, £1,893.15	17,538.11	
Great Western Railway Co. 4 1/2 per cent. debenture stock, £3,180	29,450.12	
India 3 1/2 per cent. stock, 1931, £2,139.47	19,811.50	
Chinese Imperial Government E loan of 1886	95,308.22	
Mortgages on real estate at Shanghai	219,863.01	
Cash at bankers on fixed deposit	333,976.46	
Cash at bankers on current account	98,598.08	
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd. 6 per cent. debentures of 1890	37,671.23	
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd. 6 per cent. debentures of 1894	37,671.23	
Shanghai Municipal 5 per cent. debentures of 1892	26,426.03	
Shanghai Municipal 5 per cent. debentures of 1895	7,609.59	
Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co. 6 per cent. debentures	33,150.69	
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd. 5 per cent. debentures	13,698.63	
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co., Ltd. shares	6,917.81	
Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co. shares	21,575.34	
S. C. Farham & Co., Ltd. shares	6,369.86	
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd. shares	23,343.75	
Boyd & Co., Ltd. shares	6,506.85	
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd. shares	2,000.00	
Co-operative Cargo Boat Co., Ltd. shares	7,602.74	
North-China Insurance Co., Ltd. shares	308.22	
Policy stamps at agencies	447.62	
Head office and London furniture	2,890.23	
Due by agencies, premia in course of collection, and sundry outstandings	112,629.86	
	\$1,321,027.48	

CORRESPONDENCE

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

SCIENTIFIC OR MILK-AND-WATER EVIDENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—The conclusion arrived at by your correspondent "Innocent" in the recent prosecution for alleged adulteration of milk is similar to that of nine-tenths of the community, official and unofficial alike. There can be no doubt that a mistake was made by Mr. Crow, not in finding 89 per cent. of water in the milk analysed by him, but in declaring upon his oath that milk which contains 89 per cent. of water must, as a matter of scientific and incontrovertible fact, contain added water to the extent of 6 per cent. In other words, Mr. Crow asserted upon his oath as a scientist that milk contains 83 per cent. of water and no more, and upon this sworn statement, and upon it alone, Mr. Kennedy was convicted of wilfully diluting his milk with 6 per cent. of water. In a case of milk adulteration just recorded at home, the judge of the higher court before whom the Sanitary authorities carried the case refused to convict, on the ground that the analyst's certificate specified only the quantity of added water and did not give the total percentage of water in the milk. The judge held that it was for him, not the analyst, to say whether, having before him the quantities of the several constituents found in the milk, water had been added or not, and that the quantity of added water was not a factor in the case.

From Mr. Crow's evidence it would appear that the percentage of water in this case was 89, and from this Mr. Crow deduces the inference that 6 per cent. of water must have been added. The public therefore have it on Mr. Crow's authority that it is a scientifically demonstrated and universally admitted fact that milk contains 83 per cent. of water, no more, no less; and that if it contains more it is due to some agency other than the cow.

The Magistrate accepts this scientific testimony as if it were an established fact, and Mr. Kennedy is promptly convicted and heavily fined. Your correspondent opines that Mr. Crow read in a book that the correct per-

centage of water as one of the constituents of milk was 83. Certainly he must have some authority for his belief, whether he took it from a book or evolved it from his scientific consciousness, but it may be not uninteresting to a very considerable section of the community to know that they may safely take Mr. Crow's opinion with at least 6 per cent. of salt. In his "Manual of Dairy Work," James Muir, M.R.A.C., etc., Professor of Agriculture in the Yorkshire College, Leeds, says, "Cow's milk of average quality is found to have the following composition:—

Water	87	per cent.
Nitrogenous matter	3.7	"
Fat	3.9	"
Sugar	4.7	"
Ash	0.7	"

He also states that "under varying conditions the proportion of water may range from 83 to 90 per cent."

The following table gives the results of a series of experiments with cream separators carried out at the Yorkshire College under Professor Muir's direction and on behalf of the County Council of the West Riding:—

Total Solids.	Fat.	Water.
12.30	(3.89)	87.70
11.90	(3.28)	88.10
12.23	(3.57)	87.77
11.80	(3.27)	88.20

In face of the published utterances of so eminent an authority as Professor Muir I fancy Mr. Crow would encounter some difficulty in convincing the public that milk which contains 89 per cent. of water must so certainly have had water added to it to the extent of 6 per cent. that he is warranted in making that declaration on his oath. And if it is not an accepted scientific fact that milk contains 83 per cent. of water, neither more nor less; if, on the contrary, authorities before whose opinion even that of Mr. Crow must give way declare that "the proportion of water may range from 83 to 90 per cent.," for what offence has Mr. Kennedy been

CONVICTED?

Hongkong, 8th April, 1896.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—As a consumer of milk from Mr. Kennedy's Dairy, I should be very happy to see an analysis of a sample of milk taken from one of his cows, in the presence of unbiassed witnesses. This would surely put an end to any doubt that may exist as to the purity of the milk supplied to his customers, and perhaps might satisfy both "Innocent" and "Convicted." I am surprised Mr. Kennedy has not already taken this course.—Yours faithfully,

SKIM-MILK.

Hongkong, 9th April, 1896.

DR. CANTLIE AND JAPANESE VACCINE LYMPH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—I desire you to publish the accompanying letter from Dr. Nakagawa concerning certain sweeping and unfair statements made by Dr. Cantlie about Japanese vaccine lymph. I would add that we have received considerable supplies from Dr. Takaki and have always had the most satisfactory results.—Yours truly,

JAMES A. LOWSON.

Government Civil Hospital, 9th April, 1896.

(Enclosure.)

Tokyo, Japan, March 13th, 1896.

My dear Sir,—I understand Dr. Cantlie on leaving Hongkong made some remarks on Japanese vaccine lymph and qualified them as being "abominable." As there are several vaccine firms in Japan it is very probable that Dr. Cantlie was in possession of lymph of inferior make which deserved his censure. Fearing, however, that careless people might be led astray on this question I wish to make it known that there is a vaccine firm belonging to the Sanitary Society of Japan with Dr. Takaki at its head. Dr. Takaki conducts the firm under Dr. Kitasato's supervision, so that I am sure there can be no question as to the quality of the lymph manufactured there, and Dr. Cantlie, were he in possession of the same vaccine, would have been less generalising in

his criticism of the vaccine manufactured in Japan.—Very truly yours,

A. NAKAGAWA.

P.S.—I am in no way connected with the vaccine firm, but if you will get the above inserted in the Hongkong papers I shall be very much obliged.

Dr. J. A. Lowson.

THE ODD VOLUMES SOCIETY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—May I venture to ask through your columns how long the above Society is going to retain its absurd and misleading title? The name "Odd Volumes" is not in the least indicative of the real objects of the Society, and I sincerely trust that at the next annual meeting, or before if possible, the members will see the advisability of making an alteration. The name "Odd Volumes" strongly suggests a bundle of old musty books which can be picked up for a mere trifle from a second-hand bookseller. One amongst them might by chance be a valuable volume, but the others are cheap and nasty. Surely, sir, this cannot be the case with the Odd Volumes Society. Of course if it is, let the title remain; if it is not, then it ought to be changed, as truth is not in it. I have not been very long in the colony, but from the little I know of the members I am inclined to think that they are far from being a set of men amongst whom only a stray one here and there can be said to possess something more than mediocre abilities. Why in the first instance the members chose the childish, undignified, and untruthful title I cannot conceive, and I am quite certain a casual visitor to the colony would not imagine, on hearing the title, that the Society is a purely literary Society, possessing members of considerable attainments. "The Hongkong Literary Society" would not only be a correct title but a title of becoming dignity. It may be asked "What's in a name?" There is something very objectionable in a name which carries with it a distortion of the truth and a slight on the English language.—Yours very truly,

A MEMBER.

Hongkong, 11th April, 1896.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—Disorder is the elemental cause of dirt and disease, of distress in its many forms, of discord and dissensions; it is both the cause and the effect of ignorance and ill. Human progress simply means the attainment of better order, for order is Heaven's first law. From the civilizing of the savage to the civilization of this close of the nineteenth century it is only a dispersal of disorder, and the more orderly we are the nearer we approach to the life of the Gods. The man of disorderly habits is but very partially civilized; all that can be said for him being that he is fortunate in living among more or less civilized beings. The first principle of order is "a place for everything and everything in its place," and odd volumes are not in their place. Men who glory in being odd volumes glory in their shame.

I am not a member of "The Odd Volumes," although the original Secretary did me the honour of asking me to put down my name. The Society would probably have gained nothing and I might possibly have gained little, but still I might have joined, although some of the original members, and it may have been some of the promoters, might have been described in the words of your correspondent of this morning as "cheap and nasty;" that is, one or two were men very generally disliked and were suspected, rightly or wrongly, of helping to get up and of using the Society for self-advertising purposes. That element, if ever it existed, has, I trust and believe, now been eliminated and I sincerely wish the Society every prosperity. As I have said, I might have joined as an original member, but the name, which your correspondent rightly terms childish and undignified, was too repellent; it gave rise to a feeling of disgust; I had almost said contempt. At the least it indicated disorder, and that is the very thing which one would suppose such a society constituted for the purpose of fighting. As that feeling influenced me it may have influenced others. At any rate that is why I am

NOT A MEMBER.

Hongkong, 13th April, 1896.

THE "PEKIN-NORMANDIE" COLLISION AT SHANGHAI.

Shanghai, 4th April.

People were somewhat surprised yesterday morning to see the C. N. Co.'s steam *Pekin* (1,274 tons) partly alongside the Ewo Jetty and her stern high and dry on the Public Garden frontage, her fore-part being pretty well submerged. After seeing this they were not much astonished, on boarding her from the Jetty, to find a large hole about fifty feet from the stem on the port side about fifteen feet wide reaching perpendicularly from her upper works down to within a few plates from her keel. The fore-hold was full of water, and the cargo in that part of the ship was completely submerged. The pontoon of the Ewo Jetty had been caught under the ship's guard and was damaged, while a large cargo boat was imprisoned between the hull of the *Pekin* and the shore. The cause of the *Pekin* being in this awkward and unfortunate position was that a collision had taken place between her and the Norwegian steamer *Normandie*, Capt. Berg. She is a vessel of 628 tons, and her agents are Messrs. Melchers & Co. According to what we can glean, the collision occurred about 5.45 a.m. The *Pekin* was inward bound from Ningpo, while the *Normandie* was outward bound, and just after the latter steamer had rounded the Pootung Point she found herself approaching the steamer *Pekin*, so she blew two blasts of her whistle; it means "I am directing my course to port." She ported her helm, which took her into the "chow-chow" water, when the cross tide suddenly turned her head and the collision followed. The *Pekin* commenced to fill rapidly and Capt. Downie, with all his wits about him, beached her where we found her yesterday morning. It is well she was put on shore, for had she sunk in deep water the loss of life would have been terrible, as she had on board 418 native passengers, besides her crew. The *Normandie* proceeded as far as the Old Dock Wharf, at which place she went alongside. This vessel was not severely damaged, only two or three plates are bulged in on her port bow. The work of patching up the gap in the *Pekin* and floating her was given to the Old Dock, whose people, with praise-worthy promptitude, commenced operations immediately. Mr. Morton, the diver, belonging to the Tug Boat Company, was soon at work, while the cargo was taken from the vessel into lighters, the greater part being undamaged. The pontoon of the Ewo Jetty has since sunk. They hope to get the *Pekin* afloat and into dock in a day or two. It is a singular coincidence that it was on Good Friday last that the *Nora* was sunk at Woosung. Old sailors used to say it was very unlucky to sail on Friday, especially on Good Friday.—*Mercury*.

HONGKONG.

Plague has taken a decided upward tendency lately, and the total for the year now reaches 183. On Thursday the Sanitary Board met, when a sub-committee was appointed to deal directly with matters concerning the disease. Two steamers, the *Ocampo* and the *Eze*, have been ashore near Hongkong this week, but fortunately both have been got off the rocks and docked. The *Activ* also went ashore thirty-six miles from Hoihow and it is feared she will become a total wreck. An interesting lecture on Criminal Poisoning in Hongkong was given by Mr. Crow, Government Analyst, on Friday at the Odd Volumes Society's rooms. On Saturday the first meeting of the shareholders in Olivers Freehold Mines, Limited, was held.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that Mr. W. M. B. Arthur has been appointed a Justice of the Peace.

The appointment of Mr. D. Macdonald to be a Lieutenant in the Field Battery of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps is gazetted.

The stamp revenue for the first quarter of the present year amounted to \$62,281, being an increase of \$7,579 on the amount collected in the corresponding quarter of 1895.

The Supplementary Convention entered into between Great Britain and Japan respecting the duties to be charged on British goods imported into Japan is published in the *Gazette*.

There were 1,602 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 130 were Europeans.

Mr. H. A. Ritchie, who has been appointed Superintendent of the P. & O. Company's business at this port, assumed charge on the 9th April. Mr. Alf. Woolley goes to Yokohama as Agent there.

In future grocers' licences under the Spirit Licences Ordinance are to contain the following condition:—No liquor shall be sold under this licence between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

The real reason of Li Hung-chang's not landing at Hongkong has at last transpired. His Excellency is an Imuris shareholder and was afraid of the liquidator's attorney. Such, at least, is the latest joke.

H.M.S. *Swift* left on Saturday for Yokohama, whence she will proceed to the Behring Sea as one of the patrol boats in connection with the seal fishery. She will be followed later on by the *Pigmy*, at present at Canton.

The Douglas Steamship Company's new steamer *Haimun*, Captain Goddard, arrived from home on Wednesday night. A full description of the *Haimun* appeared in our issue of the 24th March. She left for Swatow, Amoy, Kelung, and Tamsui on Friday.

The Russian cruisers *Dimitri Donskoi* and *Rurik* arrived at Singapore on the 9th April from Colombo. The *Dimitri Donskoi* is bound for Hongkong, and was to leave on the 11th. The *Rurik* is bound for Vladivostok, but the date of her departure from Singapore was uncertain.

At the Magistracy on the 13th April before Commander W. C. H. Hastings, a Chinese building contractor was charged with causing the death of a Chinese doctor. About a fortnight ago the prisoner was sent to gaol for three months for biting one of the doctor's fingers off during a quarrel in a house in Graham Street. The doctor was afterwards taken seriously ill and died on Saturday from blood poisoning, the result, it is supposed, of the bite. The prisoner was consequently taken out of gaol and charged with causing the death of the doctor and he was committed for trial.

Shortly after four o'clock on the morning of the 8th April a fire broke out on the first floor of 13, Wing Wo Street, a three storey building. The firemen were quickly in attendance and succeeded in keeping the flames within the first and second floors, both of which are family houses. These floors were gutted, but the ground floor, used as an oil store, suffered no damage. The fire originated through a lamp falling from a nail in a partition. The master of the first floor was formerly an interpreter at the Police Court. He says his place is insured, but he does not know in what office, as the policy is at Kowloon city, where he was at the time of the outbreak.

A "ghost" made its appearance at West Point about midnight on Wednesday. Some time ago a man living in that district contracted plague and he went to Canton, where it was thought by all his friends he had died. On Wednesday night he revisited his Hongkong home and his unexpected appearance sent a thrill of terror through all who saw him. They declared the visitor to be a ghost and so imbued were some of the people with this idea that they almost swooned with fright. Then the apparition spoke soothing words, but for a time his remarks were in vain. At length one of the company ventured to touch this being that came in questionable shape and finding that without doubt the form had a chin and therefore was no goblin proclaimed the result to the household, and the man was once more received into the bosom of his family.

A Hankow correspondent of the *Peking and Tientsin Times* writes:—The Viceroy's cotton mills keep working on steadily and, it is said, successfully. At first they used to stop on Sundays; then on every alternate Sunday. Next it was discovered they were paying too great a deference to the foreigner's religion, so now they shut down on the 1st and 15th of the native month. The next step in the process of naturalising this institution will probably be to discontinue stopping altogether, save at China New Year.

MISCELLANEOUS.

We (*Siam Free Press*) hear that an Austrian General has been engaged by the Siamese Government to organise the land forces of the kingdom, and that this military gentleman is shortly expected in the capital.

The *Hyogo News* says:—Just a year ago the *Tenshin-maru* took passengers to Formosa at 20 yen each and cargo at 17 yen per ton. Now there are eleven steamers on this service and the rates have fallen to 12 yen and 8 yen respectively.

On the Shanghai racecourse on the morning of the 4th April, according to previous announcement, Mr. George Dallas sent out a handsome black pony for a trial gallop of a mile and a half. The incident attracted a good deal of notice, and after covering the distance in 3mins. 19secs., the last half-mile being done in 1min. 2secs., and the last quarter in 31secs., the pony was bought at auction by Mr. Ring for Tls. 1,075. He has since been named *Ironsides*, and is entered for the forthcoming Spring Meeting.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The *N. C. Daily News* of the 6th April says:—A griffin, whose entries were all paid on Saturday, was being trotted round the course yesterday morning when, catching sight of his stables at the Horse Bazaar, he bucked, threw the jockey who was riding him, and jumped the ditch. In doing this he broke his back and had to be shot; but though only measuring 12 hands 2 ins. he made what is believed to be the "record" jump for a China pony, 23 feet 4 inches by actual measurement.

About the same time that it was reported by the *Times* correspondent in Odessa that "the despatch of Russian troops to the East continues actively, although their forces there already exceed ninety thousand men," we heard from a friend in Manchuria to the effect that "Russians in bands are scouring over Manchuria, armed, and professing nothing, only commonly believed to have connection with railroads and map-making. They are received with extraordinary distinction at every point. The magistrate who will revile the Englishman to his face will shortly after get into his cart and run miles out of town to meet Russians."—*Recorder*.

The Chinkiang correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* writes:—In the neighboring large cities there is a great desire to learn the English language and to become acquainted with foreign ways. We are glad to see many of the upper classes reading good sound literature translated into Chinese by Christian men. In a certain large *fu* city where no foreigners reside, we saw Dr. Y. J. Allen's *Review of the Times* in the home of a wealthy native not a Christian. The Press is destined to be a mighty agent in removing false ideas from the native mind and implanting the truth where gross darkness and crass ignorance now prevail.

The *Singapore Free Press* of the 31st March says:—While near Labuan, as is already known, H.M.S. *Undaunted* grazed a pinnacle rock, hitherto undiscovered, at a point where the lead gave eight fathoms on each side of the ship. The material appears to have been coral and the top of the pinnacle has been crushed off, doing little damage to the *Undaunted's* bottom, save opening out a seam between her plates and letting into one of the double bottom compartments a matter of twelve tons of water. This makes no difference to speak of, and the *Undaunted* (which cannot get into dock here) will not dock till her return to Hongkong, on the arrival of her relief the *Narcissus*, which may be down here in three or four weeks.

A correspondent writes to the *Foochow Echo*:—A sign of the times is the appointment of Mr. Minchin to the Interpretership of the Board of Foreign Trade in Foochow-foo. In former days a man in the East who made himself unpleasant to his Government had his head whipped off; while now a practice of the West is being adopted—well, if not actually a practice of the West, a plan more than once resorted to by the British Government—namely, the finding of a post for a troublesome subject, even if it was only the Governorship of a remote colony. And so it happens that Minchin has become interpreter to the Foreign Board. His good fortune is due no doubt to the fact of his being a British subject and he may thank his stars that he was born in Singapore.

There is at present, we hear, a large export from Canton of Chinese five and ten cent pieces and this has been going on for some months past. The cause of the unusually large and steady shipments of these coins is the necessity of supplying the deficiency in the Chinese currency caused by the diminishing or non-expansive supply of copper cash, the principal medium of exchange, and the steady appreciation of the latter all over China. This seems to point to three things, first, that the silver currency is becoming better known and more popular; second, that the coinage of cash is not keeping pace with the demand; and, third, that the mass of the people are growing richer or that they prefer to use the small silver coins to the old cumbersome cash. Possibly cheap silver may also have something to do with it.

The writer of "Stray Notes" in the *Kobe Chronicle* says:—For ways that are dark and for tricks that are vain, the "heathen" compositor is peculiar. A Shanghai paper received by a recent mail has a good specimen of his atrocities. In course of a lawsuit over some document the evidence showed that somebody had appended his signature, and had then written under his signature the words "on behalf of the owners," meaning of course to make it clear that he was not acting for himself alone. By an ingenious and ingenuous misprint the learned Judge was represented as saying, "It must not be forgotten that there is a world below for the owners" instead of "a word." It reminds me of a difficulty the British North Borneo people had about a national anthem; they used "God save the Queen" at first, but this was not quite proper, as the territory is not British in a strict acceptance of the term, but is administered by a Chartered Company under British protection, so instead of "God save the Queen" they now sing "God help the Shareholders." [We don't quite see the connection between the two stories, but we let our contributor have his way. The density is probably ours.—ED. K.C.]

Sir William Robinson, in July, 1892, publicly informed the community that he had been the financial Saviour of three colonies—Bahama, Barbadoes, and Trinidad,—that he did not despair of rescuing Hongkong from its financial difficulties, and of meeting with success in his administration. His Excellency also held out hopes of being able to show in a few months from that time a prospective annual saving in the cost of government of \$60,000 a year. Has any such saving or retrenchment been accomplished? No; the cost of government has risen from \$547,650 in 1887 to \$758,139 in 1891, and to the unprecedented amount of \$983,352.86 for 1895. Instead of diminishing taxation it has had to be increased, to meet the ever-expanding cost of administration, and the Government's half-hearted advocacy of the interests of the colony in respect of the military contribution has resulted in Hongkong being saddled with an inequitable and heavy charge far heavier than it would have been had we possessed the advantages of a Municipal Council. See the memorandum of the unofficial members of Council to the Secretary of State for the Colonies of this date.

Under date of 1st April the Chinkiang correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* writes:—Mr. H. Darwin McIlrath and his wife passed through this port last Saturday. They come from Chicago, Ill., U.S.A., and expect to girdle the earth so far as it is practicable with bicycle tracks. It was the writer's pleasure to meet these enterprising Americans in the interior and to spend several days in their company. Mr. McIlrath has been a correspondent of the *Chicago Inter-Ocean* for several years, and now he is sent around the world as this paper's representative. He carries excellent testimonials, one of which is a flag made of the silk first produced in the United States and sent round the world by the Commander of the Grand Army of the Potomac. They ride excellent wheels and the tools and materials necessary for any possible breakdown are carried on the bicycle. Mr. McIlrath's cyclometer shows that he has covered over 4,000 miles. The gentleness and kindness towards the natives shown by these friends will do much towards insuring them a safe and profitable journey through China. We wish them success, but with all their equipment we doubt whether the trip can be made by a lady.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

CANTON, 8th April.—Our last report was dated the 25th February.—Congous.—The first arrivals of new season's new makes reached Macao yesterday and some 5/600 boxes will probably go forward by the outgoing mail. Judging from the small quantity offered the crop appears to be a good average one, the quality being fully equal to last season's, as regards liquor and infusion, and somewhat better in appearance. The teas are said to have cost the tea-men about the same as last year, but at the time that our advice left Macao no actual sales had transpired. The first shipment for Australia will probably leave on the 25th instant. Scented Teas.—The position remains unchanged, with a total export rather under 5½ mil., as per our last circular.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN

	1895-96	1894-95
	lbs.	lbs.
Canton and Macao	7,146,099	7,813,790
Amoy	781,523	772,692
Foochow	11,175,408	14,357,248
Shanghai and Hankow	21,111,512	21,591,490
	40,514,542	44,535,220

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1895-96	1894-95
	lbs.	lbs.
Amoy	15,601,980	19,447,739
Foochow	6,066,651	4,626,555
Shanghai	29,029,320	25,791,160
	50,697,951	49,865,454

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1895-96	1894-95
	lbs.	lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai	27,240,863	22,555,223

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1895-96	1894-95
	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama	29,801,404	28,680,847
Kobe	18,731,080	16,879,951
	48,532,484	45,560,798

SILK.

SHANGHAI, 9th April.—(From Messrs. Cromie and Burkill's circular).—London advices are to 7th current and quote Blue Elephants 10/6. Raw Silk.—The position has not improved much during the week; more offers have perhaps been forthcoming (mostly below quotations) but the only effect has been to strengthen holders. Some 300 to 400 bales of Tussahs have been taken at quotations. Arrivals of White Silks during the week are 468 bales and about 1,000 bales. Tussahs are said to have arrived in the Newchwang steamers but these are not entered at the Custom House yet. Waste Silk.—No transactions of moment are reported. Pongees.—No business in White Cloth is passing, and in Shantung some 5,000 pieces have changed hands for the Japan market at about last mail's prices.

Purchases include:—Tea-lees.—Black Lion 4 at Tls. 410, Large Elephant 3 and 4 at Tls. 380 and Tls. 350, Mountain 4 at Tls. 355, Gold Kiling at Tls. 315, Chaey Kiling at Tls. 285.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1895-96	1894-95
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	50,125	47,719
Canton	15,690	14,696
Yokohama	19,757	19,196
	85,572	81,611

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1895-96	1894-95
	bales.	bales.
Canton	9,244	8,269
Shanghai	9,541	7,984
Yokohama	27,221	22,921
	46,009	39,173

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 14th April.—A considerable fall in prices is reported, due to large arrivals. Quotations for Formosa are \$63.00 to \$63.70. During the past week sales have been 250 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 14th April.—There is no change to report in the position of the market. Following are the quotations:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White...	\$7.26 to 7.30	per picul.
do. " 2, White...	6.65 to 6.70	"
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown...	4.65 to 4.67	"
do. " 2, Brown...	4.54 to 4.60	"
Swatow, No. 1, White...	7.16 to 7.20	"
do. " 2, White...	6.60 to 6.63	"
do. " 1, Brown...	4.57 to 4.60	"
Swatow, No. 2, Brown...	4.50 to 4.52	"
Foochow Sugar Candy...	11.05 to 11.10	"
Shekloong	9.65 to 9.70	"

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

The steamship *Telena*, Hongkong to London, 31st March, took:—5 bales Broken Cassia, 7 cases Bristles, and 25 cases Merchandise; for Hamburg:—7 bales Cassia Buds, 5 bales Broken Cassia, 20 cases Cassia Oil, 50 bales Cans, 155 cases Camphor, and 505 Feathers; for Hamburg, option London, option Antwerp:—206 bales Split Bamboos.

The German steamer *Kriemhild*, Hongkong to Havre, 3rd April, took:—41 rolls Matting, 166 bales Cans, 150 boxes Tea, and 107 bales Bamboo Ware; for Havre option Hamburg:—219 cases Camphor, and 26 cases Blackwoodware; for Havre option Hamburg option London:—451 cases Camphor; for Havre option Hamburg option London option Antwerp:—10 Bristles; for Hamburg:—100 packages Cans, 8 cases Chinaware, 200 cases Cassia Buds, 210 cases Broken Cassia, 25 boxes Vermilion, 6 cases Tonastics, 2 cases Hair, 15 cases Gamboge, 70 cases Bristles, 135 bales Feathers, 15 packages Rattanware, 59 bales Rattans, 104 cases Camphor, 377 packages Fire Crackers, 601 packages Tea, 50 cases Gallnuts, 4 cases Private Effects, and 18 packages Sundries; for Hamburg option London:—25 cases Bristles, and 15 cases Cassia; for Antwerp:—4 cases Soy, and 8 cases Cassia.

The steamer *Nestor*, Hongkong to London, 3rd April, took:—100 bales Waste Silk, 81 bales Cans, 90 rolls Mats, 100 cases Ginger, 52 cases Cigars, 100 cases Cassia Buds, 8 cases Plumbago, 16 cases Blackwoodware, 16 cases Chinaware, 1 case Silks, 27 cases Shells, 4 packages Curios, 18 packages Sundries, and 26 packages Effects; for London option Manchester:—105 bales Waste Silk; for Liverpool:—911 bales Hemp, and 20 cases Vermilion; for Glasgow:—4 cases Cigars, and 7 packages Sundries.

The P. & O. steamer *Formosa*, Hongkong to Manchester, 7th April, took:—100 bales Waste Silk; for London:—2,186 bales Hemp, 377 packages Tea, 60 bales Waste Silk, 169 cases Chinaware, 24 cases Blackwoodware, 5 cases Silk Piece Goods, 70 bales Cans, 199 bags Galangal, 110 cases Ginger, 50 cases Ginger, and 53 packages Sundries.

The P. & O. steamer *Kaisar-i-Hind*, Hongkong to London, 9th April, took:—140 bales Cans, 5 bales Waste Silk, 4 packages Sundries, 509 packages Tea (10,689 lbs. Congou); for France:—315 bales Raw Silk, 1 case Silk Piece Goods, and 7 cases Curios; for Milan:—40 bales Raw Silk; for Gibraltar:—100 packages Tea, 2 cases Silk Piece Goods, and 3 packages Sundries.

The American bark *Coloma*, Hongkong to San Francisco, 9th April, took:—7,500 bags Rice, 800 cases Nut Oil, 22 packages Rattan Piddicks, 749 packages Fire Crackers, 200 Rice Flour, 391 rolls Matting, 200 bags Rice, 25 packages Rattan Chair, 845 cases Molasses, 70 bags Beans, 200 packages Pine Apples, 73 bales Kapok, and 6,760 packages Merchandise.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 14th April.—Bengal.—There has been a further decline in the prices of this drug, New Patna having receded to \$740, Old to \$760, New Benares to \$727, and Old to \$790.

Malwa.—Transactions have been limited and prices have remained unchanged. The following are the best figures:—

New	\$750 with all'ance of ¼ to ½ cts.
Old (2/3 yrs.)	\$760 " 0 to 2½ "
" (4/6 yrs.)	\$780 " 1 to 2½ "

Persian.—The market has continued quiet and without any alteration in rates. Prices close at

\$600 to \$630 for Oily, and \$650 to \$690 for Paper wrapped drug.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

New Patna	1,031 chests
Old Patna	710 "
New Benares	435 "
Old Benares	105 "
Malwa	140 "
Persian	1,400 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1896.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
April 9	750	772½	740	790	750/760	780
April 10	750	772½	737½	790	750/760	780
April 11	745	767½	732½	790	750/760	780
April 12	745	767½	732½	790	750/760	780
April 13	740	760	727½	790	750/760	780
April 14	740	760	727½	790	750/760	780

RICE.

HONGKONG, 14th April.—The market continues to decline under the influence of large arrivals. Closing quotations are:—

	per picul.
Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.32 to 2.35
" Round, good quality	2.57 to 2.60
" Long	2.63 to 2.70
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2 ..	2.52 to 2.54
" Garden, " No. 1 ..	2.78 to 2.82
" White	3.10 to 3.12
" Fine Cargo	3.25 to 3.28

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 14th April.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—Bombay Yarn.—70 bales No. 8 at \$65.50 to \$66.415 bales No. 10 at \$70 to \$74, 530 bales No. 12 at \$73 to \$76, 230 bales No. 16 at \$81.50 to \$90, 365 bales No. 20 at \$88.50 to \$90. *White Shirtings*.—1,500 pieces D. 70 at \$3.30, 1,500 pieces Peacock at \$3.20, 500 pieces Gold Elephant at \$3.45, 500 pieces 300 at \$3.30.

COTTON YARN.

	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20	\$64.00 to \$91.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24	104.00 to 108.00
" 22 to 24	109.00 to 112.00
" 28 to 32	114.00 to 119.00
" 38 to 42	124.00 to 131.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	per piece
Grey Shirtings—6lbs.	1.40 to 1.55
7lbs.	1.85 to 2.05
8½ lbs.	2.20 to 3.10
9 to 10 lbs.	3.20 to 4.00
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.30 to 2.50
58 to 60 "	2.65 to 3.25
64 to 66 "	3.30 to 3.75
Fine	4.05 to 6.90
Book-folds.	3.20 to 5.40
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ...	0.60 to 1.25
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	1.40 to 1.55
7lbs. (32 ") ..	1.80 to 2.25
6lbs. (32 "), Mexs.	1.60 to 1.75
7lbs. (32 "), "	2.15 to 2.40
8 to 8½ lbs. (36 in.)	2.35 to 3.05
Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ to 14lbs.	3.20 to 4.30

FANCY COTTONS

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 5lbs.	1.30 to 3.50
Brocades—Dyed	3.75 to 4.50
Damasks	0.12 to 0.15
Chintzes—Assorted	0.07 to 0.10
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.21 to 0.23
Velveteens—18 in.	0.16 to 0.20

WOOLLENS

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk ..	0.40 to 0.85
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.	0.60 to 0.95
German	1.00 to 1.15
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths.	1.25 to 3.50
Long Ells—Scarlet	6.90 to 8.00
Assorted	7.00 to 8.10
Camlets—Assorted	18.00 to 27.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted ..	10.00 to 18.00
Orleans—Plain	3.00 to 3.80
Blankets—8 to 12lbs.	4.20 to 8.40

METALS

	per picul
Iron—Nail Rod	3.05 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar ...	3.00 to 3.05

Swedish Bar	4.75 to 4.80
Small Round Rod	3.55 to —
Hoop	4.50 to —
Old Wire Rope	3.00 to —
Lead, Australian	6.85 to —
Yellow Metal—Muntz, 14/28 oz.	25.25 to —
Elliot's, 16/28 oz.	25.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs	24.75 to —
Tin	35.50 to 35.75
Tin-Plates	5.00 to —
Steel	4.25 to —

SUNDRIES

Quicksilver	109.75 to —
Window Glass	3.30 to —
Kerosene Oil	2.24 to —

SHANGHAI, 9th April.—(From Messrs. Noel Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade report.)—

This is only the third day since the date of our last report that the Banks have been opened and business resumed after the holidays, and during that short period the relationship between buyers and sellers has undergone no change of importance. According to the re-sales that appear in the market book, now and again, the dealers are realising a fair return for their former purchases, as in almost every case the quotations show an advance on the prices last obtainable by first hands, not to mention any advantages that may have accrued through judicious settlements of Exchange, the opportunities for doing which have not been infrequent. It is this that makes it so difficult to find out the actual position the natives are in, as no reliable judgment can be formed from their assertions. The disposition seems to be to commence providing for the autumn requirements for which purpose orders have gone through in one or two quarters for both Manchester and American makes, at prices that certainly do not betoken any serious decline here, in the former at all events, for some time to come. For the latter it is not so easy to calculate, as producers there seem to act more on the impulse of the moment, especially when it comes to a question of lowering prices. As regards spot business there is little to be said, by far the bulk of it being done at the Auctions. Here and there the dealers find they have under estimated their requirements and have to pay up accordingly, but in plain Cottons this seems to be exceptional, fine White Shirtings being the most noticeable, if indeed they can be put in the category of plain goods. In Fancy makes there is a brisk business doing both from stock and forward, the demand apparently far exceeding what was estimated it would be. The news from the North is better, beyond a doubt, both from Tientsin and Newchwang. In the latter market the chief trouble appears to have been caused by excessive competition amongst the would-be caterers, a number of small men, of no financial standing, having attempted to enter into the trade, with the usual result that they have had to be frozen out by the regular dealers, who hope now to be able to rule the market. For Tientsin the strongest demand appears to be for Indian Yarn of all counts, the shallowness of the water in the Peiho, preventing steamers from getting right up to the Settlement, no doubt interfering with the trade to an appreciable extent. Hankow at last shows signs of waking up, and it is anticipated that in a few weeks more there will be a general revival in the demand all round.

Metals.—(From Mr. Alex. Biefield's report.)—10th April.—The last two weeks have passed quietly, the Easter holidays intervening. Business here during March was quieter than for some years past. Lead.—I have nothing to report. The market for L. B. is easier at home but I have no sales to mention. Iron.—A sale of Nailrods at 113s. was made, it is said, three weeks ago and several parcels purchased a few months ago have been placed quietly on the market recently at profitable rates. Offers have been made at about 115s. and 116s. for several brands but so far without business resulting. Copper and Yellow Metal.—An upward tendency is exhibited here and there is some little enquiry. A few sales have been made but details not reported. Iron Wire.—Dealers hang back, but unless they buy soon will have to pay higher rates, and the same remark seems likely to be true regarding Tin Plates. Scrap Materials.—Importers are asking higher prices and everything points to further advance on the other side, but so far re-

ports from the north are not very encouraging, last year's supplies not having been quitted yet.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS. EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/2½
Bank Bills, on demand	2/2½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	—
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	2/2½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/2½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight ..	2/2½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.76
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.81
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	2.23
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	53½
Credits, 60 days' sight	54½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	184
Bank, on demand	184½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	184
Bank, on demand	184½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	71½
Private, 30 days' sight	72½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	1 % pm.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	16 % pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	1 % pm.
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	8.97
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	46.75

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 14th April.—Business has been fairly active during the week under review, and we have about the usual amount to report. Rates have ruled and close steady to strong.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai continue dull and neglected with sellers at 189 per cent. prem.; beyond very small sales at 190 we have nothing to report. Nationals have changed hands in fair lots at \$31½ and \$31.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have further advanced to \$212½, after sales at \$210. Traders are steady at \$80 with sales. Yangtszes and North-Chinas and Cantons have been negotiated at quotations. Straits have found buyers in the North at \$28, \$28½, and \$29.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong after further sales at \$340 close steady. Chinas have changed hands at \$97 and \$96, closing in demand at latter rate. A sale at \$95 is reported.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton, and Macao continue steady with but small business at \$33½ to \$33¾; some small parcels changed hands at former rate, and more shares are wanted. At \$33¾, however, shares are still obtainable. Indo-Chinas, with the continuation of the Northern demand, have fully maintained their position with further sales at \$70 for cash and end of the month, and at equivalent rates on time; market closes steady at \$70. Douglases continue more or less neglected with small sales at \$51 cash; shares, however, are enquired for at equivalent rates forward delivery. China-Manilas have changed hands at \$66, and are wanted at \$65, but only a few small parcels are obtainable except at an advance. China Mutuals continue on offer at quotations.

REFINERIES.—Still remain neglected, and quotations are more or less nominal.

MINING.—Punjoms.—A reaction set in during the early part of the week, and the rate dropped from \$14 to \$12 without any business at intermediate rates; later, with shares still offering, rates fell further and sales were effected at \$11½, \$11, and \$10½; at time of writing the market is firmer with sales and buyers at \$11½. The result of the first trial of the cyanide process is not yet to hand. Sales of Charbonnages are reported at \$72½. Balmorals have again changed hands at \$3 and \$2.90 and Rauba at \$5.50, \$5.75, and \$6 cum div. Jebebus have been in good demand; resulting in sales at \$5.75. Olivers are enquired for and could be placed at \$6 for A shares; holders, however, refuse to part.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS, LANDS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks.—In the early part of the week a fair number of shares changed hands at 178 and 179 cash, at 180 per cent. premium for the 30th inst., and at rather higher than equivalent rates forward, chiefly for June at 184 and 185, July at 186 and 187, and August at 188 and 189; later on the cash rate hardened and a demand at 180 resulted in a fair business. The demand being greater than the supply the market closes firm at 180 per cent. prem. Lands continue dull and more or less neglected; shares have changed hands at \$73½, but \$73 has been the ruling selling rate and shares are still obtainable at that. Wanchais have been negotiated at \$39 and more are wanted at the rate. Kowloon Wharf shares have found buyers at \$47½ and close steady at \$47. West Points have again been negotiated in small lots at \$18. Hotels have changed hands in small lots.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Electrics have changed hands at \$7.15 and \$7.25, Dairy Farms at \$4 and \$5, Fenwicks at \$26, and Browns at \$5. Watsons have found buyers at \$12.75 and \$13, closing with sellers at the latter rate.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		[\$361.25, sellers
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	189 p. ct. prem. =
China & Japan, prf.	25	nominal
Do. ordinary...	£1 10s.	nominal
Do. deferred...	£1	£2, buyers
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£8	\$32, sales & sellers
Founders Shares...	£1	\$115, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A. ...	15s.	\$9
Brown & Co., H. G. ...	\$50	\$5, sales & buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$5, buyers
Carmichael & Co.	\$20	\$8
China Sugar	\$100	\$123, sellers
Dakin, Cruick's & Co.	\$5	\$1
Dairy Farm Co.	\$10	\$5, sales
Fenwick & Co., Geo. ...	\$25	\$26, sellers
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$16, sellers
H. & China Bakery ...	\$50	\$36
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	£10	\$100, buyers
Hongkong Electric ...	\$8	\$7.25, sales
H. H. L. Tramways ...	\$100	\$93, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$26, sales
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$105, sales & buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G. ...	\$50	\$47, buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$120, ex new issue
H. & W. Dock	\$125	180 p. ct. prem. =
Insurance—		[\$350, sales & buyers
Canton	\$50	\$200
China Fire	\$50	\$96, buyers
China Traders'	\$25	\$80, sales & sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$340, sales & sellers
North-China	£25	Tls. 230, sellers
Straits	\$20	\$29, sales
Union	\$25	\$212½, sales & sellers
Yangtze	\$60	\$167, buyers
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment...	\$50	\$73, sales & sellers
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$9.75, sellers
Kowloon Land & B. ...	\$30	\$13
West Point Building	\$40	\$18, sales
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$69, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 500	\$72½, sales & sellers
Jebeu	\$5	\$3.75, sales & buyers
New Balmoral	\$3	\$2.90, sellers
Oliver's Mines, A. ...	\$5	\$6, sales
Do. B. ...	\$2½	\$3, sales
Punjom	\$4	\$11.50, buyers
Do. Preference...	\$1	\$3, sellers
Rauhs	13s. 10d.	\$5.75, sellers
Steamship Coy's—		
China and Manila ...	\$50	\$65, sellers
China Mutual Ord...	£5	£3 1.6, sellers
Do. Preference...	£10	£8 10, sellers
Douglas S. S. Co. ...	\$50	\$51, sales & buyers
H. Canton and M. ...	\$15	\$33½, sellers
Indo-China S. N. ...	£10	\$70, sales
Wanchai Wareh'ise Co.	\$37½	\$39, sales & buyers
Watson & Co., A. S. ...	\$10	\$12½, sales & buyers

CHATER & VERNON, Share Brokers
TUESDAY, 14th April.

SHANGHAI, 10th April.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s report.)—During the week Bank shares have been neglected, notwithstanding the success of the Chinese loan. Of the eight millions, only five were allotted, the tenders amounting to £20,500,000, and it has since risen to 2 per cent. premium. Business has been chiefly in Indo-China and Insurance shares. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—One transaction is reported at 190 per cent. premium for cash, and one for 31st August at 202 per cent. premium.

There are sellers at 192 per cent. premium, but buyers offer lower rates. The Hongkong quotation is 190 per cent., and the London rate £41.15.0. National Bank shares are wanted at \$31, but are held for \$32. Shipping.—A large business has been done in Indo-China S. N. shares. Cash shares have been sold at Tls. 50 to Tls. 52, April shares at Tls. 50½ to Tls. 52½, and \$70½ from Hongkong; May shares at \$71 from Hongkong, and August shares at Tls. 55½ and Tls. 56. We quote Tls. 52 as the closing cash rate with sellers. Hongkong, Canton & Macao Steamboat shares were sold to Hongkong at \$33, and Douglas Steamship shares at \$52. China Mutual S. N. Co. Ltd.—Ordinary shares are offering at £3. Docks.—Shares in S. C. Farnham & Co. have been dealt in at Tls. 92½ for cash, and Tls. 96 for July and June. Hongkong & Whampoa Dock shares have been changing hands in Hongkong at 180 per cent. premium. Marine Insurance.—China Traders' shares were purchased from Hongkong at \$79½. There are local sellers at \$80. North Chinas changed hands at Tls. 230 and Tls. 225. A large business has been done in this stock. Cash shares were placed at rates rapidly rising from \$152½ to \$170, while shares for delivery on the 30th current were sold at \$160 to \$170, and August shares were placed at \$172½. Straits shares have been in demand, and business was done at \$26½ to \$29, and from Hongkong at \$28, while shares were placed for April at \$29, for 17th August at the same rate, and for July delivery at \$29½ and \$29¾. We quote \$29 as the closing cash rate. Fire Insurance.—Hongkong's were placed to Hongkong at \$310. Chinas were also sold to Hongkong buyers at \$35 to \$35½, and to local buyers at \$95, while some were purchased from Hongkong at \$97½. We quote \$95 as the closing cash rate. Wharfs.—Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf shares have been placed at Tls. 117½ to Tls. 120 cash, and Tls. 120 for June. Mining.—Punjom Mining shares were sold locally at \$8½, and purchased from Hongkong at \$14. Raub Australian Gold Mining shares have been in demand, and shares were placed locally at \$5½ cum, and to Hongkong at \$5½ ex, the dividend of 6d., payable in Singapore on 18th May. Tugs and Cargo Boats.—Shanghai Tug Boat shares changed hands at Tls. 185. Taku Tug and Lighter shares have been purchased from Tientsin at T. Tls. 110. Shanghai Cargo Boat shares were sold at Tls. 210 and Tls. 207½. Sugars.—China Sugar Refining shares were placed for June delivery at \$131. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment shares changed hands at Tls. 60 and Tls. 80. The Tls. 30 shares are offering, while the Tls. 80 shares are wanted. Hongkong Land Investment shares were purchased from Hongkong at \$73, and are obtainable at the same rate. Factories.—Major Brothers shares have been placed at Tls. 32 and Tls. 33. E-wo Cotton shares at Tls. 70, and Laou-kung-mow Cotton shares at Tls. 72½. Miscellaneous.—Business was done in Shanghai Gas shares at Tls. 260, Shanghai Waterworks shares at Tls. 220 and Tls. 225, Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco shares at Tls. 110, Shanghai Langkat Tobacco shares at Tls. 332½ and Tls. 340, Hall and Holtz shares at \$35 and \$36, and Horse Bazaar shares at Tls. 70. Loans.—Municipal Debentures of 1895 were sold at Tls. 101, Land 6 per cent. Debentures of 1890 at Tls. 110, Wharf Debentures at Tls. 110, and Lyceum Theatre Debentures at Tls. 15.

Quotations are:—

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—\$362½.
National Bank of China, Ltd.—\$30.
National Bank of China, Ltd., Founders.—\$115.
Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, prf. shares.—Nominal.
Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, ordinary shares.—Nominal.
Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, deferred shares.—£2.
Indo-China Steam N. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 52.
China-Mutual Steam Nav. Co. prf. shares.—Tls. 52½.
China-Mutual Steam Nav. Co. ord. shares.—Tls. £3 1s. 6d.
Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co.—\$32½.
Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd.—\$51.
Boyd & Co., Ltd., Founders.—Tls. 300.
Boyd & Co., Limited.—Tls. 200.
S. C. Farnham & Co.—Tls. 192½.
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.—\$350.
China Traders' Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$79½.
North China Insurance Co., Ltd.—Tls. 225.
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd.—\$240.
Yangtze Insce. Assocn., Ltd.—\$170.
Canton Insurance Office, Ltd.—\$202.
Straits Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$28½.

Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$334.
China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$95.
Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co.—Tls. 120.
Birt's Wharf Hide-curing and Wool-cleaning Company.—Tls. 55.
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited.—\$47½.
Sheridan Consolidated Mining and Milling Company, Limited.—Tls. 2½.
Punjom Mining Co., Ltd.—\$14.
Punjom Mining Co., Ltd., prf. shares.—\$2.40.
Jebeu Mining & Trading Co., Ltd.—\$3.
Raub Australian Gold Min. Co., Ltd.—\$5½.
Shanghai Tugboat Co., Ltd.—Tls. 180½.
Taku Tug & Lighter Co., Ltd.—T. Tls. 110.
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 207½.
Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 191.
Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Ltd.—Tls. 43.
China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$128.
Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$72.
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd. (fully paid).—Tls. 80.
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd. (\$30 paid).—Tls. 60.
Hongkong Land Invest. & A. Co., Ltd.—\$73.
Kowloon Land & Building Co., Ltd.—\$15½.
Humphreys Estate and Finance Co., Ltd.—\$9½.
Major Brothers, Limited.—Tls. 33.
Ewo Cotton Spinning & W. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 70.
International Cotton Man. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 72½.
Laou-kung-mow Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co., Ltd.—Tls. 72½.
Soy Chee Cotton Spinning Co., Ltd.—Tls. 300.
Shanghai Ice Company.—Tls. 180.
Shanghai Gas Co.—Tls. 260.
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.—Tls. 225.
Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co.—Tls. 110.
Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd.—Tls. 340.
Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd., Founders'—Nominal.
Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd.—Tls. 70.
J. Llewellyn & Co., Limited.—\$70.
Hall & Holtz, Ltd.—\$36.
A. S. Watson Co., Limited.—\$12½.
Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Ltd.—£1.
Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd.—\$6½.

TONNAGE.

SHANGHAI, 10th April (from Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s report.)—The opening of the northern ports has not in any way affected our freight market for either London or New York and homeward business generally is as dull as it possibly can be. From Tientsin nothing of any importance is coming forward and it is expected that this state of affairs cannot right itself until the coming autumn. Sail freights are dull in the extreme for New York, and with an abundance of tonnage and a great scarcity of cargo prospects of an improvement in this direction are very remote. Rates by steamer are unchanged and are likely to remain so for some time. For London via Suez.—There is abundance of tonnage advertised for near loading, but the small quantity of cargo offering for shipment will not constitute very great support when divided up. Homeward rates are:—London by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s.; waste silk 45s.; tea 50s.; Northern Continental ports, general cargo 42s. 6d.; waste silk 45s.; tea 50s.; New York, general cargo 40s.; tea 40s.; New York via London, general cargo 50s.; tea 50s.; Boston, general cargo 42s. 6d.; Philadelphia, general cargo 50s. Above rates are subject to a deferred return, as per Conference circular. London by Shell Line, general cargo 40s. less 10 per cent.; Hamburg, general cargo 35s. net; New York, general cargo 50s. less 10 per cent. Havre direct, general cargo 37s. 6d. net; Genoa, tallow 35s. general cargo 40s. net; Marseilles, tallow 35s.; general cargo 37s. 6d. net. 45s. per ton of 20 cwt. for above three ports. New York by sail, 23s.; New York by Pacific Lines, little doing. Coast rates are:—Mojito to Shanghai \$1.20 per ton coal; Nagasaki to Shanghai \$1.10 per ton coal. Disengaged vessels in port.—Benjamin Sewall, American ship, 1,362 tons register; Woolahra, British barque, 932 tons register.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—Shanghai (str.), Pinguey (str.), Canton (str.), Turbo (str.), Priam (str.), Peshawur (str.).
For HAVRE.—Dorothea Rickmers (str.).
For BREMEN.—Sachsen (str.).
For SAN FRANCISCO.—Coloma, Queen Elizabeth, China (str.), Belgic (str.), Formosa.
For VICTORIA.—Allmore (str.).
For NEW YORK.—T. F. Oakes, Tam O'Shanter, Gerard C. Tobey, Lucy A. Nickels, Radnorshire (str.).
For AUSTRALIA.—Orono (str.), Changsha (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

April—

ARRIVALS.

- 8, Haimun, British str., from Glasgow.
 8, Nord, Norw. str., from Haiphong.
 9, Eton, British str., from Bangkok.
 9, Loyal, Dutch str., from Canton.
 9, Oanfa, British str., from London.
 9, Thales, British str., from Taiwanfoo.
 9, Yungping, British str., from Canton.
 9, Gloucester City, Brit. str., from Barry.
 9, Ocampo, British str., from Kobe.
 9, Pakhoi, British str., from Canton.
 9, Chwnshan, British str., from Bangkok.
 9, Glenartney, British str., from Amoy.
 9, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 9, Sachsen, German str., from Bremen.
 9, Suisang, British str., from Shanghai.
 10, Kong Alf, Norw. str., from Tournon.
 10, Taichow, British str., from Bangkok.
 10, Elektra, Austrian str., from Kobe.
 10, Harrow, British str., from Singapore.
 10, Lyeemoon, German str., from Shanghai.
 10, Nanyang, German str., from Chinkiang.
 10, Victoria, Swedish str., from Singapore.
 10, Evandale, British str., from K'chinotzu.
 11, Taksang, British str., from Shanghai.
 11, Skuld, Norw. str., from Saigon.
 11, Albingia, German str., from Penang.
 11, China, German str., from Saigon.
 12, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 12, Triumph, German str., from Pakhoi.
 12, Taisang, British str., from Canton.
 13, Arratoon Apear, Brit. str., from Calcutta.
 13, Strathallan, British str., from Hongay.
 13, Hunsang, British str., from Saigon.
 13, Lyderhorn, Norw. str., from K'chinotzu.
 13, Maria Valerie, Austrian str., from Trieste.
 13, Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.
 13, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
 13, Kweilin, British str., from Chinkiang.
 13, Michael Jebson, German str., from Saigon.
 14, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Canton.
 14, Lyeemoon, German str., from Canton.
 14, Sydney, French str., from Marseilles.
 14, Salazie, French str., from Shanghai.
 14, Alderley, British str., from Bangkok.
 14, Pio IX., Spanish str., from Europe.
 14, Tetartos, German str., from Saigon.
 14, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
 14, Carmarthenshire, British str., from Moji.
 14, Kiangpack, Chinese str., from Wuhu.
 14, Benlawers, British str., from London.
- April—
 DEPARTURES.
 9, Ulysses, British str., for Shanghai.
 9, Chingta, British str., for Yokohama.
 9, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
 9, Rio, German str., for Amoy.
 9, Kwongmo, British str., for Tamsui.
 9, Afridi, British str., for Saigon.
 9, Shelley, British str., for Amoy.
 9, Ask, Danish str., for Hoihow.
 9, Chusan, German str., for Hoihow.
 9, Exe, British str., for Saigon.
 9, Glenearn, British str., for Shanghai.
 9, Coloma, Amr. bark, for S. Francisco.
 9, Humber, British storeship, for Y'hama.
 9, Kaiser-i-Hind, British str., for Europe.
 9, Apenrade, German str., for Saigon.
 9, Pakhoi, British str., for Shanghai.
 10, Mongkut, British str., for Bangkok.
 10, Ancona, British str., for Yokohama.
 10, Menmuir, British str., for Kobe.
 10, Aglaia, German str., for Hamburg.
 10, Glenartney, British str., for London.
 10, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
 10, Loyal, German str., for Bangkok.
 10, Memnon, British str., for Kudat.
 10, Oanfa, British str., for Shanghai.
 10, P. C. C. Klao, British str., for Bangkok.
 10, Wingsang, British str., for Swatow.
 10, Yungping, Chinese str., for Chefoo.
 10, Swift, British gunboat, for a cruise.
 11, Wuotan, German str., for Saigon.
 11, Lyeemoon, German str., for Canton.
 11, Sachsen, German str., for Shanghai.
 11, Cheang Hye Teng, British str., for Amoy.
 11, Hohenzollern, German str., for Yokohama.
 11, Chowfa, British str., for Bangkok.
 11, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 11, Inverlay, British str., for Takau.
 11, Macduff, British str., for Moji.
 11, Nanyang, German str., for Canton.

- 11, Otaru Maru, Jap. str., for Anping.
 11, Rhosina, British str., for Tjilatjap.
 11, Suisang, British str., for Calcutta.
 12, Jacob Christensen, Norw. str., for Saigon.
 12, Marie Jebson, German str., for Hoihow.
 12, Taksang, British str., for Canton.
 12, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 12, Victoria, Swedish str., for Amoy.
 13, Albingia, German str., for Amoy.
 13, Elektra, Austrian str., for Trieste.
 13, Strathesk, British str., for Moji.
 13, Tailee, German str., for Swatow.
 13, Taisang, British str., for Shanghai.
 13, Iltis, German gunboat, for Shanghai.
 14, Nord, Norw. str., for Bangkok.
 14, Picciola, German str., for Saigon.
 14, Frogner, Norw. str., for Bangkok.
 14, Machew, British str., for Bangkok.
 14, Maria Valerie, Austrian str., for Shanghai.
 14, Propontis, British str., for Singapore.
 14, Sydney, French str., for Shanghai.
 14, Tacoma, British str., for Tacoma.
 14, Strathallan, British str., for Hongay.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVALS.

- Per *Machew*, str., from Bangkok—Mr. Men-
 dam.
 Per *Kaiser-i-Hind*, str., from Shanghai for
 Hongkong—Mrs. Schlichtung, Mr. and Mrs.
 Jensen, Messrs. H. Marshall, H. Morat, L.
 Plummer, Chacouloff, and Chang Ting Bow.
 For Singapore—Messrs. J. Armstrong and H.
 E. Kempthorne. For Port Said—Pere Cereri.
 For Brindisi—Messrs. Justus Lembke and Frank
 Lembke. For London—Mrs. Whitney and 3
 children, Mrs. F. E. T'Anson and 2 children, Mr.
 and Mrs. Spooner, Messrs. R. A. Cousins and
 Fraser, Misses Aspeden and Hibberd.
 Per *Chowfa*, str., from London, &c.—Messrs.
 Kershaw and Hodgkinson.
 Per *Thales*, str., from Taiwanfoo, &c.—Capt.
 Vosteen, Mr. Jenkinson.
 Per *Kwanglee*, str., from Shanghai—Messrs.
 Scagliotti and Slangeburg.
 Per *Sachsen*, str., from Bremen, &c.—Mr. and
 Mrs. C. A. Bowra, Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Richards,
 Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Hutchingson, Mr. and Mrs.
 M. A. Ryerson, Mr. and Mrs. Oelmichen, Dr.
 J. Sato, Capt. Lieut. L. Braun (Commander
 H.G.M.S. *Itis*), Miss Bertha Frohloose, Messrs.
 Alwin Cramer, E. Zebel, K. Oldorp, Whistler,
 Alfred Melhese, A. C. Arnold, Ernst Schwabe
 and family, John Lau, Charles Land, Otto von
 Lucius.
 Per *Lyeemoon*, str., from Shanghai—Mr. Ruff.
 Per *Haitan*, str., from Coast Ports—Messrs.
 Muller, H. Baker, Brand, Sutherland, A. D.
 Vania, Mr. and Mrs. G. Bateson Wright, Miss
 M. Osbrup.
 Per *Arratoon Apear*, str., from Calcutta, &c.—
 Mrs. Hansen and child, Mrs. Arnold, Lieut.
 P. G. Anderson, Subadar Feroz Khan, and 313
 Chinese.
 Per *Maria Valerie*, str., from Trieste for
 Hongkong—Messrs. Ph. A. Wolf and S. Cohn.
 For Shanghai—Messrs. L. Soyka, E. Berg, and
 Cuming.
 Per *Esmeralda*, str., from Manila—Mrs. Elean
 and son, Mrs. Angela Coombs, Mr. and Mrs.
 Edwin Sutcliffe and child, Messrs. Edward Hut-
 chinson, W. Henry and son, George Moore,
 Wm. A. Keay, Joes A. Serretz.
 Per *Hongkong*, str., from Haiphong, &c.—
 Mons. Guillot, Mons. Eoreh, Mr. Jenkinson.
 DEPARTED.
 Per *Jaca*, str., for Shanghai—Mr. Ch. Guer-
 nier.
 Per *Doric*, str., for Amoy—Mrs. Richardson
 and child. For San Francisco—Mrs. Le Roux
 and 3 children, Messrs. Hammond and Chas.
 McMillan.
 Per *Formosa*, str., from Hongkong for Lon-
 don—Mrs. Retallick, Hon. and Mrs. A. G. Wise
 and child, Mr. and Mrs. A. K. Travers and
 child, Mrs. Dodwell, Mr. H. C. Nicolle, Misses
 Reading, Winnie Dodwell, Ruby Dodwell, Dora
 Dodwell, Phyllis Dodwell, Master Gordon Dod-
 well. From Yokohama for London—Miss Webb,
 Capt. C. Hendry. For Singapore—Ladies Eva
 and Nesta Fitzgerald. From Shanghai for
 London—Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Oxley and four
 children, and Mrs. H. D. Hutchinson and two
 children.
 Per *Empress of China*, str., for Shanghai—
 Mrs. D. W. Craddock and child, Mr. and Mrs.

- W. Powell, Mrs. A. J. David and child, Mr. and
 Mrs. L. S. Hing, Lieut. Paley, Capt. Baker-
 Carr, Messrs. V. Straub, C. Ancauz, F. Borne-
 mann, R. L. Thompson, M. G. de Lyon, Lot
 Tak Hing. For Nagasaki—Mr. and Mrs. Pot-
 ter and child. For Kobe—Mr. and Mrs. N. J.
 Saunders, Messrs. G. S. Knox, G. de H. Smith,
 Michaelson, Montague, Yu Ching Cheong. For
 Yokohama—Mr. and Mrs. Greene and 2 Misses
 Greene, Mrs. M. Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Sprague,
 Miss E. Caldwell, Messrs. H. U. Jeffries, D.
 Scoular, L. Jephson, W. H. Ray, O. Struck-
 meyer, and Chu. For Victoria—Miss A. Yau.
 For Port Townsend—Mr. and Mrs. Ng Loon
 and 2 children. For New York—Mrs. J. L.
 Taylor, Rev. and Mrs. Aekin and 2 children,
 Miss Phlan, Mrs. Bennett, Mr. J. M. Waters.
 For St. Paul—Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Reed, Miss
 Reed, Mr. C. H. Reed. For Halifax—Rev. and
 Mrs. Buchanan and 2 children. For Southamp-
 ton—Mr. W. Van Uffel. For London—Gen.
 Sir G. Wolseley, Col. Hill, Dr. and Mrs. Knott,
 Master Knott, Mr. and Mrs. Marcell, Mr. and
 Mrs. Dunbar and child, Mrs. Low, Mr. and Mrs.
 Sherlock, Miss Sherlock, Mr. and Mrs. F. D.
 Cunningham, Mr. and Mrs. G. Whitelaw, Mr.
 and Mrs. Champney, Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Gray
 and infant, Mr. and Mrs. L. von Looper, Miss
 Fergusson, Messrs. J. and J. H. Ferguson, E.
 Smith, Paul, Paul, Jr., Nicholson, G. Fenwick,
 A. P. Pennell, Birch, G. W. A. Lloyd, H. Hoare,
 D. J. Meldrum, S. M. Low, Farrar, H. H. Child,
 G. Addis, F. P. Woodward, F. Halland, J.
 Moore, J. Lees, Pearson, Dr. J. F. Wales, Dr.
 McCosh. From Shanghai for Kobe—Mr. and
 Mrs. L. Holme, Mr. and Mrs. Scott, Mr. and
 Mrs. Newmann. For Yokohama—Mr. R. C.
 Hope. For London—Mr. H. W. Wickins.
 From Yokohama for Vancouver—Mr. and Mrs.
 R. Scott, Mrs. Morrison. For London—Sir J.
 Poynder, Justice Parker, Capt. Ingenohl.
 Per *Kaiser-i-Hind*, str., from Hongkong for
 Singapore—Messrs. W. Sangford and W.
 Archer. For Bombay—Lieut. A. Gordon and
 Mr. K. A. Chinoy. For Brindisi—Messrs. A.
 Sharp and A. H. Barlow. For London—Mrs.
 A. S. Palmer, Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Rowe, Sergt.
 Major and Mrs. Robertson and 3 children, Mr.
 and Mrs. F. A. Cartman, Messrs. Hugh N.
 Coulson, R. V. Rutter, D. McDonald, T. H.
 Barber, J. Dennis, and R. W. Wainwright.
 From Yokohama for London—Rev. Dr. and Mrs.
 Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Cook, Master Cook,
 and Miss Smith. From Nagasaki for London
 —Mr. A. B. Anderson. From Shanghai for
 Singapore—Messrs. H. E. Kempthorne and J.
 Armstrong. For Port Said—Pere Cereri. For
 Brindisi—Messrs. Justus Lembke and Frank
 Lembke. For London—Mr. and Mrs. Spooner,
 Mrs. Whitney and 3 children, Mrs. E. E. T'An-
 son and 2 children, Messrs. R. A. Cousins and
 Fraser, Misses Aspeden and Hibberd.
 Per *Menmuir*, str., for Shanghai—Mr. and
 Mrs. Wheen and 3 children, Mrs. Lampert and
 2 children, and the Willard Opera's Troupe.
 For Kobe—Rev. Hon. Canon Bouverie, Hon.
 Stuart Bouverie, Mrs. Rodbard, Messrs. Young,
 Sowden, Barnsley, Mr. and Mrs. Rosenfeld, and
 Major Edwards.
 Per *Sachsen*, str., for Shanghai from Bremen
 —Miss E. Vogler, Miss Land, Miss Wohlfeil,
 Messrs. W. Marty and Theo. Goull. From
 Genoa—Mr. and Mrs. Theodor, Messrs. L. A.
 Lyall, J. F. Rodewald, John Landberg, R. B.
 Kung, and E. Eichwede. From Naples—Mr.
 Bergmann. From Singapore—Mr. A. E. Ochs.
 From Hongkong—Messrs. F. Betz, Stoeterbeck,
 E. Macbeth, Anderson, J. Hoffmann, J. C.
 Lyon, A. Cramer, Theodor Morat, Gulunsen.
 Per *Hohenzollern*, str., for Yokohama from
 Southampton—Mr. C. Lund. From Genoa—
 Mr. and Mrs. Oelmichen, Dr. J. Sato. From
 Naples—Mr. O. von Lugin. From Hongkong
 —Capt. Ingenohl. For Nagasaki from Hong-
 kong—Mr. Tcherkoff.
 Per *Ancona*, str., from Hongkong for Kobe—
 Mrs. A. Fitzgerald, Mr. E. R. Grindlay. For
 Yokohama—Mrs. J. T. Harrison, Mrs. Z.
 Leonard, Mrs. F. Lyll, Mrs. Woolley and 2
 children. For Yokohama from London—Mr.
 R. E. Large. From Malta—Mr. J. I. P. Berch.
 From Brindisi—Mr. R. C. Hope, Mr. and Mrs.
 Reed, Mr. and Miss Reed. From Bombay—
 Mr. G. de Herring Smith. From Singapore—
 Mr. Royama. For Nagasaki from Singapore—
 Mrs. Sahme. For Kobe from Singapore—Miss
 Astrid Naess.